

Yeltsin foes form common front

MOSCOW (R) — Russian conservative and nationalist opponents of President Boris Yeltsin announced on Wednesday they were joining forces to save Russia and halt a process of mindless reform. A joint statement, signed by leaders of parliamentary and non-parliamentary groups, announced the formation of the Russian movement "Accord for Russia." The only significant hardline opposition group not represented was Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party. Most centrist groups were also missing. The statement said the aims of the new movement includes: "To prevent the final collapse of historic Russia, the destruction of the cultural, economic and political ties between its equal peoples formed over centuries," and "to stop reforms (just) for the sake of reforms, to stop the disintegration of domestic industry and to protect national markets and capital." The wording was clearly aimed at the former architect of Russian radical reforms, Yegor Gaidar.

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27 parties sign up for S. African polls

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The final deadline for parties to sign up for South Africa's first all-race elections in April passed on Wednesday with 27 confirming that they will take part. They include Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), widely expected to win, and the governing National Party, but a spokesman for the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party said just before the deadline that it would not register candidates. The white right-wing Freedom Front of former Defence Chief General Constand Viljoen, who broke with other white rightists boycotting the vote to back demands for an Afrikaner homeland, met the deadline for registering candidates. Freedom Front spokesman Joseph Chole, a former member of parliament for the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, said the front would contest all national and provincial assembly seats.

Kazakhstan 'fulfilling nuclear arms deals'

ALMA ATA (R) — President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said on Wednesday his giant former Soviet republic was destroying its nuclear arsenal according to plan. "The world need not worry because the republic is demonstrating consistency in the matter of liquidating nuclear warheads," he told a small group of Western journalists in an interview. Kazakhstan, one of four former Soviet republics with nuclear arms, has ratified the START-I arms reduction treaty and decided to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, prompting the United States to pledge \$396 million in new economic help. U.S. officials say Kazakhstan has 104 SS-18 long-range missiles and 1,040 warheads to go with them.

Slovak president forms government

BRATISLAVA (R) — Slovak President Michal Kovac on Wednesday installed a new government comprised of members of the five parties that engineered a no-confidence vote to oust Prime Minister Vladimir Mečiar. Leaders of the broad coalition earlier this week chose former Foreign Minister Jozef Moravčík to replace Mr. Mečiar as prime minister. Mr. Kovac swore in the 17 new cabinet members at the ceremony in Bratislava castle.

Tunisia enters 'post-oil era'

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia said Wednesday it had entered the post-oil era after it spent more on oil imports in 1993 than it earned from oil exports. Economy Minister Sadok Rabeb aid it was the first time in more than 20 years that Tunisia had registered a deficit in the oil account. "Starting in 1994, Tunisia enters the post-oil era," he told reporters. Official figures showed a 1993 deficit in the oil account of 22.9 million dinars (\$23 million) in 1992, it showed a surplus of 141.3 million dinars (\$142 million). Tunisia traditionally produces over five million tonnes of oil a year. To satisfy domestic needs, it has been importing certain varieties of crude and refined oils. At the same time, it has been exporting varieties of its own.

Iran holds war games in Gulf

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's navy Wednesday began three days of manoeuvres in the Gulf and the Sea of Oman to test the force's fighting power, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. IRNA quoted Alireza Tangiri, a naval commander, as saying the war games were simulating attacks on enemy forces. He said marines and frogmen were taking part in the manoeuvres, which he said would help evaluate "the combat power" of the force and "the efficiency of communication systems." The agency said the exercise is code-named "Shahamat." IRNA said

Clinton, Rabin urge PLO and Syria to return to peace talks

Little details emerge of White House meeting

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Bill Clinton on Wednesday called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria to reopen peace negotiations with Israel.

After a meeting with Mr. Rabin, Mr. Clinton said 1994 still can be a year for peace in the Middle East. But, he said, "we are further from that peace than we expected a month ago."

Mr. Rabin seemed to hold out the prospect of concessions if Mr. Assad would end his three-week boycott.

"We are ready to negotiate peace with Syria," Mr. Rabin said. "There must be give and take on both sides."

President Bill Clinton encouraged the overture. He said he had talked by telephone a few days ago to Assad and is convinced "he wants to make peace with Israel."

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton, at a joint news conference, called on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Arafat and President Assad to reopen peace negotiations stat-

ed after the massacre of dozens of Palestinians by a Jewish extremist Feb. 25.

Mr. Rabin had vowed in the past not to "go down" from the Golon. But he declined to reaffirm that stand in an exchange with a reporter.

"This is an issue to be addressed between Syria and Israel," he said.

Then, at a joint news conference with Mr. Clinton, he said: "We know that as we engage in serious and authoritative negotiations the point will come where painful decisions will have to be made. The promise of peace and its genuine benefits... justifies making such decisions vis-a-vis Syria."

"We will stand ready to do what is required of us if the Syrians are ready to do what is required of them," Mr. Rabin said.

"Peace with Syria has always been our strategic choice," he said.

Mr. Rabin vowed, meanwhile, to overcome difficulties that have snagged Mideast negotiations "and reach the

(Continued on page 5)

Peres: Some steps possible

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel might take additional steps in Hebron to meet Palestinian security concerns after the mosque massacre, but must resume negotiations to discuss them, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday.

He stressed that getting talks restarted with Syria, also suspended after the February massacre, were a priority of the meeting Wednesday between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Bill Clinton in Washington.

"We can take additional steps in Hebron," Mr. Peres told a briefing of European correspondents, but added that Palestinian requests for removing the settlers in Hebron and introducing armed international observers were impossible.

He said the supreme court would rule as illegal any attempt by the government to remove the Jewish settlements in Hebron. Other cabinet ministers had voiced support

(Continued on page 5)

One killed and 60 wounded by Israelis in Hebron, Gaza

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — One Palestinian was killed and at least 30 were wounded in clashes with soldiers that erupted Wednesday when the army briefly lifted a 20-day curfew imposed after last month's massacre. Another 30 were wounded in clashes elsewhere in the occupied territories.

Troops shot Amjad Awabi, 22, in the neck, officials at Alia hospital said. Ten other youths were wounded by rubber bullets in the legs, they said. Another 20 people were treated for injuries, tear-gas and inhalation, they said.

A running battle broke out between about 200 youths throwing stones and soldiers responding with tear-gas and rubber bullets about 30 mi-

nutes after the curfew was lifted at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT) and continued for over three hours, Palestinian reporters said.

The army confirmed the clash, but reported no deaths or injuries.

Israel has barred Hebron's 110,000 residents from leaving their homes since Feb. 23, when settler Baruch Goldstein massacred dozens of Palestinians. The curfew is lifted sometimes for up to two hours to allow residents to buy food.

The clashes erupted Wednesday near Beit Hadassah, the oldest of six Jewish enclaves holding 450 settlers. Palestinian reporters said.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian reporters said 30 youths were wounded in Jabaliya refugee camp in similar clashes with the army.

Palestinian probe finds troops had role in mosque bloodbath

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Arab judges and lawyers investigating the Hebron massacre said Wednesday they believe soldiers played a role in the deaths at the mosque, despite testimony to the contrary by Israeli officers.

"Soldiers had a role in the massacre, because they shot inside the mosque and in the area outside. They also killed Palestinians near the hospital and the cemetery," said Abdul Ghani Awawi, a lawyer on the 11-member Palestinian panel investigating the Feb. 25 massacre.

Gen. Yatom denied reports that soldiers had opened fire at the crowds trying to flee the gunfire. He said only that soldiers fired in the air inside the mosque, while army fire brought down four outside the hospital and in a neighbourhood behind the mosque.

Witness accounts are often contradictory and difficult to piece together. But three Palestinian witnesses said Diab Karaki, 23, was shot by soldiers as he fled from the mosque.

"I saw him running out of the mosque, and I saw five Israeli soldiers chasing him. I saw at least three soldiers shooting at him from behind,"

said Zuhaira Abu Mayala, 35, whose house is about 300 metres from the mosque. Two relatives said they saw the same thing.

One of the wounded, Amin Khalil Jouani, 17, said he was also shot in the legs by soldiers at the mosque entrance.

Speaking from bed at home, Jouani said he was hit once in the leg by army gunfire when he ran forward to try to save a boy lying on the stairs leading out of the mosque.

Soldiers shot again at the crowd of Palestinians trying to get inside the mosque, and I was hit by another bullet in my right leg," said Jouani.

Women who were praying elsewhere in the mosque have said repeatedly that soldiers fired into the air and at worshippers running in panic.

The soldiers on duty at the mosque are due to testify Thursday to the Israeli inquiry commission, which Palestinians are boycotting.

"We decided to boycott the inquiry commission because the Israelis cannot be both the enemy and the judge," said Hassan Tahboub, head of the Islamic High Committee that

(Continued on page 5)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with Jordanian peacekeepers in Croatia (Photo by Bougas)

Jordanians to operate U.S. anti-artillery radar in Bosnia

Crown Prince ends visit to Croatia.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A unit of the Armed Forces left for Sarajevo to serve in the U.N. peacekeeping force in former Yugoslavia where the unit's soldiers will operate advanced U.S. radars stations and equipment to trace artillery, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The dispatch of the unit, the latest Jordanian group to join the U.N. force in former Yugoslavia, came after the U.S. Defence Department announced in Washington that it was leasing counter-battery radars to the U.N. for use in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Defence department spokeswoman Kathleen de Laski said the lease of the three AN/TPQ-36 counter-artillery radars and two AN/TPQ-37 counter-mortar radars will be for a period of 10 months. But

she indicated that the \$1.2-million contract "could be renewed." These radars are used to pin-point the source of incoming artillery and mortar fire.

She said a 60-person detachment of Jordanians assigned to the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will operate the radars in Bosnia after completing a refresher training course in Germany offered by U.S. military personnel.

The equipment and operators are expected to be operational in Bosnia in about 20 days, according to Ms. de Laski. The location of the radars will be up to UNPROFOR officials, she said.

Asked if any other U.S. equipment will be sent to Bosnia, the spokesman said, "nothing else is in the works right now."

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday con-

cluded a visit to former Yugoslavia. The Crown Prince's last stop was in Croatia, where he also began the visit on Monday.

The Crown Prince met with some of the 3,000 Jordanian security men serving with the U.N. force.

On Tuesday, Prince Hassan visited Sarajevo and held a meeting with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Earlier the Crown Prince met with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, and the new UNPROFOR commander, General Bertrand de Lapresse.

Prince Hassan was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talaat Al Hassan.

(Continued on page 5)

Stage set for Sudan peace talks

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

NAIROBI (R) — Sudan's military president met his Kenyan counterpart in Nairobi on Wednesday on the eve of talks with southern Sudanese rebels to end almost 11 years of civil war in Africa's largest country.

Officials have said the CBJ role in the banking and monetary affairs was warranted since the Jordanian dinar will be in circulation in the occupied territories and it was up to the Palestinians to decide what would be their "legal tender."

Officials at these banks said they expected soon to follow the Bank of Jordan in reopening one branch each in the occupied territories.

Mohammad Ali Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Bank of Jordan, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Bank of Jordan Chairman Fayed Abul Aynan was in the occupied West Bank to supervise the reopening of the Ramallah branch next week.

A Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said informal consultations between Gen. Bashir and the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, officials said Wednesday.

Reports from occupied Jerusalem said the Bank of Jordan received an Israeli licence to reopen the Ramallah branch, and that other Jordanian banks which have also received preliminary licences from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) would soon receive Israeli licences.

A senior CBJ official said the Israeli government, in line with a memorandum of understanding, the Bank of Israel signed with the CBJ on Dec. 1, was issuing the licences on a case-by-case basis.

The official, who preferred anonymity, said the CBJ had given the green light to the Bank of Jordan to reopen the Ramallah branch and expected other banks which already have the Central Bank's preliminary approval to receive their Israeli licences soon.

The CBJ issued preliminary approvals in February to five banks to reopen eight branches in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Apart from the Bank of Jordan, they include the Arab Bank, the Jordan National Bank, the Jordan-Gulf Bank and the Arab Land Bank.

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All reopened branches of Jordanian banks are now only obliged to send monthly returns to the Bank of Israel.

Zeev Abeles, supervisor of banks at the Bank of Israel, was quoted as saying by Reuters that "there will not be limits on what kind of banking business" that the reopened branches could conduct.

Yoav Lehman, a spokesman for the Israeli central bank, told the Associated Press: "We see the banks as a very crucial element in promoting the local economy of the (occupied) territories, both in generating investments and financing standard of living."

The CBJ official was non-committal when asked whether Jordan favoured quick reopening of all branches of the Kingdom's commercial banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip closed since 1967.

Other officials have said that Jordan favoured a gradual reopening of the branches, starting with one or two in the initial phase.

"There is a process and procedures for reopening the branches and we will follow them," said the official.

The Dec. 1 Jordan-Israel memo cleared the way for the reopening of all closed bran-

IAEA: N. Korea refused Yongbyon checks

VIENNA (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Wednesday North Korea refused to let inspectors carry out some checks at one of its nuclear sites at Yongbyon. "As a result of this rejection... the agency (is) not in a position to verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear material at the facility," an IAEA statement said. "Although many of the agreed inspection measures were carried out as envisaged, other important measures which had been agreed were refused at the radiochemical laboratory in Yongbyon," the statement said. The IAEA, an arm of the United Nations, said it had called a meeting of its board of governors next Monday to discuss North Korea. A six-man team of inspectors returned on Tuesday from a trip to North Korea to inspect seven of the Stalinist state's declared nuclear plants and briefed agency chiefs on Wednesday. Detailed results of the two-week inspection trip would be awaited follow-up analysis in Vienna, the statement added.

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Bomb defused at east Beirut school

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army sappers defused a bomb at a school in Christian east Beirut on Wednesday, the latest in a series of bombings or attempted bombings in Christian areas of Lebanon, security sources said.

The device was a wired 60-mm mortar bomb wrapped as a gift and placed at the entrance of the Tarraqi (progress) school. It was the second bomb dismantled in Beirut in a week.

Last Wednesday police dismantled a six-kilogramme bomb wrapped as a gift and left at the entrance to the French Cultural Centre in the Christian port of Jounieh.

On Feb. 27 a bomb made of two wired 82-mm mortar bombs exploded in a Jounieh church, killing 10 people and wounding about 60.

The bombing campaign has caused alarm in Lebanon, particularly among the influential Christian minority, and the government said on Tuesday 127 people had been arrested in connection with the attacks.

"People are getting really scared. I even feel afraid to leave my house most of the time," said a Christian customer relations officer for a foreign company.

The government said the 127 suspects were arrested in various parts of the country, including Palestinian refugee camps.

In the southern port of Sidon, army explosives experts dismantled on Tuesday night a 300-gramme explosive charge in a tape recorder placed in front of a car showroom, security sources said.

Many military checkpoints have been reinforced as part of security measures to counter the bombing campaign and

troops and police and guarding mosques and churches on holy days.

Despite the security measures, a hand grenade exploded near the British embassy in east Beirut on Sunday causing minor damage. Another grenade exploded on Monday near a restaurant in an Armenian suburb of the capital.

In December a truck-bomb wrecked the Falange Party headquarters in east Beirut, killing three people and wounding 130.

Authorities have not yet named any suspects but Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri stressed Tuesday that tight security measures would continue "until the terrorism and sabotage networks and elements threatening the country's security are uncovered," a cabinet statement said.

It did not make clear if those rounded up were linked to the church bombing but said the security meeting discussed investigations into the blast and "the resulting arrests and raids on suspects and those accused of (previous) bombings."

Criminals pardoned after the 1975-90 civil war under a general amnesty for war crimes will be kept under surveillance and may be "pursued for all the crimes they have committed including those covered by the amnesty," the statement added.

Lebanon's official National News Agency quoted security officials as saying there were about 600 people in Lebanon "who worked in the field of explosives," for militias that ruled the country by the gun until they were disbanded in 1990.

U.S. gunship crash kills 7; six survive

NAIROBI (AP) — Seven crewmen who died when a U.S. Air Force gunship crashed off Kenya might have tried to parachute too late, U.S. military officials said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Gannon, speaking from the scene, said six crew survived, including three who stayed in the Spectre gunship when it ditched in the Indian Ocean late Monday 120 kilometres north of Mombasa and just 180 metres offshore.

Army Colonel Steve Rausch, a U.S. spokesman in Mogadishu, said the AC-130H gunship had taken off minutes earlier from Mombasa's Moi international airport for a surveillance mission.

Some parachutes, found floating in the sea, had been opened, indicating the dead crewmen might have attempted to jump when the aircraft was too low over the water, Col. Gannon said.

Crewmen do not normally wear parachutes in the crowded aircraft and would have needed time to put them on and make their way to emergency exists, Col. Gannon said. By the time some did, he said the plane may have been so low there wasn't enough time for the parachutes to deploy.

The names of all 14 crewmembers were withheld pending notification of their families. The plane and its crew were from the air force's 161st Special Operations Squadron, based at Hurlburt Field in Florida.

The survivors were in good condition, Col. Gannon said. Three were flown to a hospital on a U.S. Navy ship off Mombasa.

dish and three were taken to Mombasa.

Col. Rausch said preliminary indications pointed to engine failure as the cause of the crash. He said no distress call was heard from the stricken plane in either Mombasa or Mogadishu.

The pilot attempted to ditch the aircraft in the sea, said Col. Gannon.

Three splashed ashore through a snake-infested lagoon towards the lights of a seaside hotel. Three others were injured but picked up by the Korean trawler Aldria Eight.

The crew reported there was an explosion — we don't know whether it was an engine or not — and they were going to have to ditch the aircraft," Col. Gannon said.

The gunship had just taken off from Mombasa for a two-hour flight to Mogadishu before a six-hour patrol protecting U.S. forces withdrawing from Somalia.

It was the worst incident involving U.S. forces in Somalia since 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in battles in Mogadishu on Oct. 3 with warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's militiamen.

"It is always a tragedy when a plane goes down especially towards the end of a mission but there is still a mission and that mission will continue," said Col. Gannon, adding that the remaining three gunships would continue night flights over Mogadishu until the U.S. withdrawal is completed.

Witnesses said fire streamed from the rear of the plane shortly before it plunged into the sea.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 77131. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Armenian International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932. Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 611295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will continue their consistent rise with winds becoming easterly light to moderate. In Aqaba and few weather conditions will prevail and winds will be northerly moderate and winds calm.

Min/max. temp. Aqaba 11/25
Amman 5/18
Aqaba 11/25
Desert 3/23
Dead Valley 11/23
Yesterdays high temperatures Amman 15°, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings:

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defense Department 661111 Civil Defense Immediate

Rescue 630341 Civil Defense Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 621111 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 803300

Public Security Department 639321

Hotel Complaints 619892

Price Complaints 601176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 661003

Telecommunications 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Oversize Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Ahdal Telephone Repair 661101

Dr. Fayed Al Oadi 248743

Al Quds pharmacy 1—

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Home News

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*UNRWA opens women's legal consultancy, production unit in Wihdat refugee camp

AMMAN (I.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) Wednesday opened a women's legal consultancy office at Al Wihdat refugee camp, southeast of Amman.

The office's establishment costs were covered by a \$16,500 German donation allocated for two legal consultancy offices and the salary of a woman lawyer who will supervise the two offices for one year.

The office will be run by three volunteers from the camp, while legal advice will be offered by six lawyers, each of them working at the office one day a week. A nominal fee of JD 0.500 for each consultancy will be charged in order to provide some financial support to the office.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several members of the German diplomatic mission in Amman, lawyer Asma Khader who will be supervising the work of the office, senior UNRWA officials and representatives of women's movements at the refugee camp.

Also Wednesday UNRWA opened a women's production unit at Amman New Camp in Wihdat.

The unit was established to provide job opportunities for the women who graduated from camp's women's programme centre.

The Canadian embassy has donated \$30,000 for the re-



Lawyer Asma Khader Wednesday discusses plans for the new women's legal consultancy services in Wihdat district of Amman with

Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy Michael Bock.

novation of an old UNRWA building in the camp and for purchasing knitting and sewing machines and some furniture.

Eleven women who gradu-

ated from knitting and sewing courses in the camp are working in this unit.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the patronage

of the Canadian Ambassador in Amman Andrew Robinson and was attended by senior UNRWA officials and a large number of camp residents.

yield the right of way to pedestrians.

In Ramtha, a 10-month-old child, Suleiman Zoubi, was electrocuted at home when he touched an open switch, police said.

A 42-year-old man, Jamal Abdul Hamid, was struck down and killed by a speeding bus while changing a flat tyre on his car in the Baten Al Ghol area, a police statement said. The statement said the man had just returned after performing Umra to Saudi Arabia.

Two others, aged 17 and 24, were killed in separate road accidents when they lost control of their vehicles, police said.

In the Abdoun district, a 35-year-old woman was run over and killed by a motorist, who, police said, failed to

partment said.

CDD Public Relations Director Abdul Raouf Ma'ayah said there was a high number of fires during the holiday.

Captain Ma'ayah said most fires were caused by children lighting firecrackers to celebrate the 'Eid.

"Most calls we responded to resulted from firecrackers children had lit, which set several houses on fire," Capt. Ma'ayah told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said 887 people reported to Jerash hospital for treatment during 'Eid Al Fitr.

It quoted hospital director Samir Tarazi as saying 137 of the 887 people were admitted to the hospital, where the bed occupancy rate during that period rose to 84 per cent.

Italian experts to offer ideas on boosting Jordan's textile industry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian businesspersons will be offered an insight into Italian expertise with a view to picking up ideas to develop the Kingdom's textile industry during a seminar in Amman on Sunday, an Italian diplomat said Wednesday.

Raffaele De Benedictis, commercial secretary at the Italian embassy here, said Italian experts in the various aspects of the three distinct areas of the textile industry — spinning, weaving and finishing — will give lectures on the subjects during the seminar, held in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Dr. De Benedictis said he expected representatives of at least 100 Jordanian companies to attend the symposium, which will also be addressed by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khatib.

"It is an opportunity for all interested Jordanians to learn about the experiences and technologies of the Italian textile industry, including machinery," Dr. De Benedictis told the Jordan Times.

According to the diplomat and Jordanian industrialists, there is a large scope for developing Jordan's textile industry, both in producing cloth as garments for local consumption and exports.

The Kingdom's imports of textile-related products (yarn, fibres, fabrics as well as ready-made garments) totalled nearly JD 120 mil-

lion in 1992, while its exports in the same category totalled JD 25 million. Figures for 1993 were not immediately available.

Jordan produced 1,037 million metres of textiles and spun 1,51 tonnes of yarn during 1992. No figures were available on ready-made garment production.

Clothes and textiles are given a 1.6 per cent share in Jordan's industrial production index. The index, set on a base of 100 and calculated on 1979 production, rose from 118.9 points to 123.5 points in 1993 — a nine per cent growth.

Jordan is exempt from the textile export quotas that many western countries have set. As such, other countries with high production capacities, but with limited export quotas, could take advantage of the Kingdom's status to expand their exports.

However, the full potential that the Kingdom offers to textile and ready-made garment producers and exporters has not been fully exploited, businesspersons say.

There are several joint ventures between Italian and Jordanian manufacturers in the textile industry.

The latest of them is El-Zay, a collaboration between a local business group and Italy's GFT. The company's administrative staff and technicians are currently undergoing training in Italy.

The \$8.5 million company, expected to go on stream later this year, will mainly produce men's suits. Dr. De



A textile manufacturing plant in Jordan (File photo)

Benedictis said a good part of the output could be exported to Italy, which has access to other members of the European Union (EU) under common EU agreements.

Dr. De Benedictis said

Sunday's seminar will offer details of Italian technologies as well as various types of textile machinery the country can offer in all areas of the industry — spinning, weaving, knitting, hosiery, dyeing, printed, finishing etc. — and for every kind of fibre — cotton, linen, other vegetable fibres, wool, silk and synthetics.

The purpose of the symposium is to put the experiences and the technologies of the Italian textile machinery producers at the disposal of the Jordanian textile industry," a press release from the Italian embassy said.

The seminar will be held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Holiday accidents claim 12 lives in Kingdom

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Accidents over the 'Eid Al Fitr claimed the lives of 12 people in different parts of the Kingdom, according to the Civil Defence and Public Security Departments.

Over the three days of the holiday (Sunday through Tuesday), seven children were run over by cars; five of them died as a result of their injuries. By comparison, during the first 13 days of March, road accidents killed three children; three others were listed in critical condition.

A police officer said the number of casualties in accidents during this year's 'Eid was lower than last year. He did not give figures.

The officer, who preferred anonymity, said most of the

accidents resulted from carelessness of children playing in the streets during the holidays.

Four adults were also killed in this week's accidents, according to the civil defence and police reports.

A 42-year-old man, Jamal Abdul Hamid, was struck down and killed by a speeding bus while changing a flat tyre on his car in the Baten Al Ghol area, a police statement said. The statement said the man had just returned after performing Umra to Saudi Arabia.

Two others, aged 17 and 24, were killed in separate road accidents when they lost control of their vehicles, police said.

In the Abdoun district, a 35-year-old woman was run over and killed by a motorist, who, police said, failed to

yield the right of way to pedestrians.

In Ramtha, a 10-month-old child, Suleiman Zoubi, was electrocuted at home when he touched an open switch, police said.

Captain Ma'ayah said most fires were caused by children lighting firecrackers to celebrate the 'Eid.

"Most calls we responded to resulted from firecrackers children had lit, which set several houses on fire," Capt. Ma'ayah told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said 887 people reported to Jerash hospital for treatment during 'Eid Al Fitr.

It quoted hospital director Samir Tarazi as saying 137 of the 887 people were admitted to the hospital, where the bed occupancy rate during that period rose to 84 per cent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Book exhibition at the Safeway International.
- ★ "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funan of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawrence (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "The Honkytonk Man" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (125 minutes).

DIALOGUE AND MUSIC

- ★ An evening of dialogue and music with lute player Munir Bashir on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

CULTURAL DISCUSSION

- ★ Cultural discussion in Arabic entitled "Women and the Jordanian Short Story" on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

DRAMA

- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 4:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives thanks from Hebron imam

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable from Hamed Abdeen, the imam of Hebron and a member of the Islamic Scholars (Ulamas) Committee, thanking him for his compassion for the people of Hebron. Sheikh Abdeen expressed gratitude and appreciation for King Hussein's support to the people of Hebron during their suffering after the massacre of Muslim worshippers at the Ibrahimiyah mosque on Feb. 25. King Hussein had donated JD 100,000 to the families of the victims of the Hebron massacre and issued instructions to the hospitals in Jordan to offer victims advanced treatment in the Kingdom's hospitals. Two massacre victims have already been admitted to hospitals here. A third patient is expected to arrive in Jordan Thursday. A higher national committee was formed to raise funds for families of the victims. The committee transferred the first part of contributions before the Eid. It will meet Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi to discuss transferring additional amounts to these families. Also Wednesday King Hussein sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad condoling him over the death of Ahmad Samir Dabbas, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman. Mr. Dabbas died of a heart attack Tuesday in Amman. His Majesty received a cable from Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa, congratulating him on 'Eid Al Fitr and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the people of Jordan further progress and prosperity.

Panel meets on draft medical insurance law

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Comprehensive Medical Insurance Committee to discuss the draft medical insurance law and 11 regulations attached to it. The 11 regulations cover all sectors of society. The committee decided to meet daily to finalise the draft law and regulations before submitting it to the Cabinet for endorsement.

Guest worker replacement discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khalid Al Ghazwi Wednesday discussed with the president and members of the General Association of Owners of Beauty Salons replacing the guest labour force with Jordanians. Mr. Ghazwi stressed the

ministry's interest in implementing the labour law in this respect and praised the efforts of the association in providing training opportunities to Jordanians to prepare them to replace the non-Jordanian labour force. The minister stressed the importance of enhancing coordination in the field of training between the association and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

Masri meets UAE counterpart

ABU DHABI (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taber Masri Wednesday discussed with his United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart Al Haj Ben Abdullah Al Muheiri scopes of bilateral cooperation in various fields. The two officials also discussed the contribution both houses can make to strengthen cooperation and dialogue among Arab parliaments. The speakers also discussed means of restoring Arab solidarity and crystallizing a strong and united Arab position to counter the challenges facing the Arab nations. Bilateral relations and means of enhancing them were also discussed during the meeting. Mr. Masri had earlier met with the UAE Defence Minister, Gen. Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashed Al Maktoum, and conveyed to him the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Mr. Masri and Gen. Maktoum reviewed issues of mutual interest, including developments in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Masri arrived in Dubai Monday on a private visit to the UAE.

Scientific writing course opens

AMMAN (I.T.) — The International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) Wednesday organised a 9-day regional training course in "Scientific Writing and Data Presentation" at the ICARDA regional office in Amman. Zaid Abdel Hadi, head of computer unit at ICARDA, said the course will improve the quality of the research reports, enhance chances for publication of research results in reference journals, and increase dissemination of research results produced by scientists. The course will cover sections on writing scientific proposals for submission to donor communities for funding. The course was opened by Mahmoud Duwayri, director general of the National Centre for Agricultural Research Technology Transfer (NCART) who stressed the importance of such training for the scientists in the region. He indicated that the writing stage and the

publication of the results is found to be the most difficult, but, most important in the agricultural research process. The course is one of a series of training and educational activities ICARDA is conducting through the Mashreq Project which includes training courses in animal production and socio-economics, in addition to study tours and travelling workshops in several countries in the region. The course is attended by 14 scientists from Syria, Jordan and Iraq. Several scientists from ICARDA will lecture and provide the training.

Party issues monthly bulletin

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Alliance Party has started issuing a monthly bulletin entitled "Sawt Al Urdun" (the voice of Jordan) covering party's activities in all fields. The zero issue of the publications, issued in March, included an editorial by party Secretary General Mijib Al Khreishen saying that the bulletin is the first step towards the publication of a monthly magazine.

European aerospace team visits RJGC

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) Uglah Dheimat Wednesday briefed a visiting delegation from the European Aerospace Office on the human and technical resources available to the RJGC and its future plans in the area of remote sensing technologies and geographical data systems. The delegation is currently on tour of several countries in the region which have demonstrated willingness to host a United Nations regional training centre on aerospace sciences and technologies in western Asia.

Teams keep water flowing in Jerash

JERASH (Petra) — Director of Jerash Water Department Abdul Hamid Abu Issa Wednesday said the department has repaired 42 water pipelines in Jerash during 'Eid Al Fitr. Mr. Abu Issa said the department's maintenance teams were working round-the-clock during the holiday to ensure that citizens in Jerash city and the surrounding areas receive their requirements of tap water. The department, he said, had received no complaints of water shortages during the holiday.

A buyer at the Jordanian pavilion at the 1994 International Green Week exhibit in Berlin gets ready to make a purchase of Jordanian fresh produce (Photo by IN/M. Leib)

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Oil, debt and power

RUSSIA APPEARS poised to assist Iraq in lifting the ban on its oil exports when the U.N. Security Council takes up the issue of sanctions later this week. Moscow now has a good reason to help Iraq since the Russians seek to expand on their recent claims for a global power role on the heels of recent moves to reassert their presence in the Middle East, the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

Moscow had been a traditional ally of several Arab countries and prime supplier of weapons and industrial goods. By extending an offer to help beleaguered Iraq, Russia could be in the process of reestablishing traditional contacts with some Middle Eastern capitals in a bid to rekindle its superpower legacy in the region.

Obviously the Kremlin has more than raw political clout on its mind in seeking new ways to regain its lost influence and prestige on the international scene. In the case of Iraq, there is always the question of the some \$6 billion that Baghdad owes Moscow, an amount that the Russian Federation desperately needs to support its stagnant economy. There is no way that Iraq can pay back its national debt to Russia or to any other country unless it is allowed to export oil. Russian President Boris Yeltsin also wants to end his country's humiliation by depending more on trade and commerce with lost markets and less on charity and direct financial aid from the western giants.

Still, Iraq's agonies and tribulations as a result of the continuation of U.N. sanctions imposed in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and war cannot be expected to end during the upcoming Security Council's debate on the issue. There is now talk about putting Baghdad through a probationary period during which the council would continue to monitor the fulfillment of its obligations under the relevant resolutions, notably 687. But Moscow appears determined to make this additional six months' trial period the beginning of the end of the council's punitive measures. Iraq is always a big prize to win in the renewed big powers' rivalries and the Russian sponsorship of easing pressure on that important country in the area could win an old ally without risking to derail the budding U.S.-Russian partnership in other areas of the world. Yeltsin's cautious challenges to Washington may succeed in regaining for his country some old friends and allies in both the economic and political spheres. The unipolar global scene should not be expected to change to a bipolar world once again, and literally overnight, but the possibility of the emergence of a multi-polar system, including Russia, cannot be discounted either.

Iraq's warning to the Security Council Tuesday, to lift the sanctions or else risk unspecified measures by Baghdad, can be looked at in the context of the new Russian moves in the Middle East. There will not be another Gulf war soon as a result of this warning, we do not think. But the move has to be calculated within the new equation that Russia is trying to work out with the U.S. for the next phase.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAJ daily urged the Arab parties to the peace negotiations with Israel to re-examine the situation in light of the attitudes of the United States and Israel vis-à-vis the occupation and the Jewish settlements issues. The decision has long been taken for obliterating the Arab and Muslim nation and it is this nation's prerogative and right to resist murder by all available means, said the paper. In our negotiations with the Israeli enemy, we have reached the point of near capitulation and surrender, considering the humiliating conditions imposed on us by the U.S.-Israeli alliance, continued the paper. Our mere decision to reconsider our participation in the peace process would likely open the door for millions of Arab masses to express their wrath and their determination to pursue the holy war and seek revenge for the usurpation of Arab and Muslims rights in retaliation against the atrocities committed against the Arab and Muslim civilians, said the paper. The paper said that this firm Arab stand should be taken to response to Washington's order to the U.N. Security Council to refrain from condemning the massacre at the Hebron mosque. In Washington's view, added the paper, the slaying of Muslims does not impede the peace process; and Washington seems to be demanding from the Palestinians to forgive the murderers for their crime.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said Wednesday that as long as the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are submissive to Washington's pressure, accepting its influence by the carrot or the stick, no resolution can be expected to end the embargo on Iraq. Mohammad Kawash said no matter how often the Council members meet, the Arab masses are certain that no decision would be passed on lifting the sanctions because Washington does not wish it. The whole world community realises that Baghdad has already implemented all Security Council resolutions and therefore every one expects the Council to lift the embargo, added the writer. Yet Washington sees otherwise and does not want to see an end to the Iraqi people's sufferings, he said. The writer expressed the view that prolonging the embargo further can only complicate the situation and can serve as a time bomb that would blow up at any time.

Reconciling traditionalism with a collective secular identity

By Lu'ayy Minwer Al Rimawi

AT THIS very critical juncture of Jordan's democratic and national development, it is most essential that we, Jordanians, examine our national identity. The real dilemma of Jordanian identity has, so far, resulted largely from the fact that Jordan has been highly exposed to the vicissitudes of Arab politics, which in turn has hampered the crystallisation of a clear-cut Jordanian identity.

Given Jordan's political history and its high susceptibility to external and regional influences, the crystallisation of Jordanian identity is to some degree a hostage to the designs of the concerned external political players-regional and international.

The corollary, predictably, is that as long as the region remains turbulent, lacking direction and durable solutions to its manifold crises, Jordanian identity is likely to remain at best, vulnerable. For its part, official nationalism has, understandably, been overwhelmed by events, which in turn meant that its role was to accommodate rather than cast.

National identity, generally, emanates from the identification with a given nation or nation-state. As opposed to other collective identities such as gender, class, ...etc., national identity (with its unlimited emotional appeal and cultural depth), offers an enduring criterion for collective identity. Sociologists and political scientists have often debated the pros and cons of such a criterion. On the whole, the majority of them have extolled national identity and its modern functional roles. To many of them, it fulfills internal as well as external functions for individuals and communities. Underpinning the state and its organs, together with defining the social space within which members live and work, are among such modern functional roles.

Nationalism, on the other hand, according to one definition, is a theory of "political legitimacy", which requires more than the subjugation of tribes and sects by central authority. Indeed, re-

quires that the ethnic boundaries should not cut across political ones, and, in particular, that ethnic boundaries within a given state... should not separate the power-holders from the rest." It has also been defined as "an ideological movement for attaining and maintaining autonomy, unity and identity on behalf of a population deemed by some of its members to constitute an actual or potential nation."

As has been the case in most emancipated ex-colonies, Transjordanian identity was territorial. Its boundaries and population were preordained by external non-ethnic factors. Transjordan was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire in 1518 after the Turks won the battle of Aleppo over the Mamluks.

Administratively, Transjordan was part of the Vilayet of Syria, which extended as far as Aqaba in the South.

Rarely did the Ottomans exercise tight authority over Transjordan, and it was in the 1870s when they imposed more rigid control over its northern parts.

The state, which the late King Abdullah established in 1921, institutionalised the concept of centralised authority in a nomadic, semi-agrarian society.

But since the process of bureaucratisation was very limited, the army then proved to be a most invaluable instrument for political socialisation.

What is unique about Jordanian identity is its complete novelty or inventiveness. Unlike neighbouring Umayyad Syria, Pharaonic Egypt or Abbasid Iraq, Transjordan's settled regions completely lacked collective cultural and political identities. Transjordan prior 1921 had no collective historic roots on which to draw its national symbols.

Today, however, after little more than 70 years of statehood, the majority of Jordanians share a collective name, a relatively common (albeit very recent) collective

history), a fairly shared culture, a strong sense of solidarity (especially when confronted with external threat) and, most importantly, a Jordanian homeland.

With regard to Jordanian national roots, one can convincingly argue that Jordan's national pride comes from the legacy of the Great Arab Revolt, which is viewed by many historians as the first modern expression of Arab nationalism and identity. Indeed, many Western writers on Jordanian nationalism almost unanimously concur that today, His Majesty King Hussein constitutes the most important symbol of Jordanian identity and the "unifying essence" of the state of Jordan. Like other regional identities, however, Jordanian identity has often been abdicated (and occasionally completely subsumed) by

the Thirty Years War and prom-

"With regard to Jordanian national roots, one can convincingly argue that Jordan's national pride comes from the legacy of the Great Arab Revolt, which is viewed by many historians as the first modern expression of Arab nationalism and identity."

Islamic, Arab and tribal identities.

Jordan's population is now almost completely sedentary in a multi-ethnic society. Education, social mobility and communication have also improved phenomenally, precipitating a drastic decline in the paramountcy of the tribe as the only social reference. However, in spite of the diminution of the significance of the tribe, tribal affiliation and ethos still play a central role in Jordanian society. The central importance of tribal identity is not unique to Jordan, though. Although only 5 per cent of the Arab population is nomadic, a far larger number, however, retain tribal identity. In order, therefore, to have a better understanding of the regional realities, a brief examination of the nation-state in the Arab World is necessary.

Clearly, a nation-state requires more than the subjugation of tribes and sects by central authority. Indeed, re-

Nation-state in the Arab World

In Middle Eastern and Arab regions, the nation-state did not develop through a process of social change and the situation was in fact wholly dissimilar to that of Europe. Needless to say, a crucial element is absent from the Arab "nation-state" equation: the industrialisation which demanded the diffusion of common modes of thought and belief throughout entire populations in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, coupled with the relentless efforts of the intelligentsia.

Modern Arab states have all joined the present interstate system which largely dates back to the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia. (The Treaty of Westphalia concluded the

gional realities have, time and again, shown that nationalism can provide no real basis for political entity in the region. But it has also to be admitted that after decades of modern statehood, Arab people have become more accustomed to their territorial states-though territorial claims and counter-claims and disparity in natural resources allocation have all sown the seeds of destabilisation. However, one can safely say that the territorial Arab state in the region has been "regionalised" in the sense that it has become a hybrid product with its own distinct cultural and historical matrixes, and although initially not an indigenous phenomenon no longer seems as a foreign import.

Islam and the nation-state

At the conceptual level, Islam contains notions that can be seen as obstacles to the establishment of civic nations in which nationalism is tantamount to a "secular religion". Unlike territorial states or state-nations, pristine Islam has no geographic boundaries or nationalistic limits. The concept of nation-state could, in many respects, be viewed as novel to Arab-Islamic history in the sense that it is based on the concept of internal sovereignty and citizenship, which presupposes loyalty to the secular symbols of the nation instead of God. Some say that the concept of political sovereignty never developed in Islam.

But modern Islam's position on the nation-state is not clear-cut. And although the sovereign state is the *de facto* reality in Muslims' lives, many still vehemently reject the nation-state concept. Some researchers maintain that territorial pluralism is acceptable in the theory of Islam and point to medieval Islamic writers such as Al Ghazzali, Ibn Tymiya and Ibn Khaldun who envisioned an Islamic legal order incorporating the "reality of divisions and multiple centres of power."

From the above account of the nation-state in the region and the position of Islam on the nation-state, one clearly observes that people in the region are torn between their tribal, territorial, religious, ethnic and Arab identities. Worse, even basic concepts like "religious" or "Arab" identities are in themselves highly complex and difficult to determine. The problem is further exacerbated by the conflicting realities underlying the issue of identity in the region. These conflicting realities can largely be ascribed to the age-old friction between "tradition" and "foreign imports", the failure of the intelligentsia to capture masses' imaginations and the total manipulation of means of information by Arab regimes.

The last reality is of paramount importance as large-scale political indoctrination, though may achieve short-term gains, engenders confusion and projects misleading realities. The unprecedented speedy collapse of the Eastern block is an example in mind.

The issue of Jordanian identity is a continuum and product of the above mentioned regional realities. And since the question of Jordanian identity touches every Jordanian citizen, national participation in tackling this complex question could not have been more vital. Responsible democratic debate, coupled with state's benign guidance, is the panacea for reconciling the apparent conflict between maintaining traditionalism and promoting a secular identity. The state and the intelligentsia, therefore, equally share the responsibility of tailoring an identity which enhances confidence in our collective tradition yet also makes us perceive to positive adaptation at such transitional period.

The writer is a doctoral candidate in law at the London School of Economics.

Hebron killer praised as a hero by young Israelis

By Sarah Helm

THE EULOGISING of Baruch Goldstein, the perpetrator of the Hebron Mosque massacre, by militant Jewish settlers is being echoed by teenagers in Israel's high schools, to the dismay of many teachers and education officials.

Recently the Education Ministry ordered special lessons to be held on tolerance and the value of human life, after surveys showed substantial support for the slaughter.

The mass circulation daily paper, *Yedioth Ahronot*, which surveyed pupils at a middle class school in Jerusalem, found that almost all those questioned praised the massacre. "It was a mitzva (commandment of the Jewish law)," said Nir Ezra, 17. "He should have taken grenades."

Joe Kolodner, head of the ministry's school psychology department, told the newspaper: "If after 45 years a generation has grown up here who think that what happened in Hebron is OK, that is a sign that there is a deep crisis in Israeli society."

While many teenagers are uninhibited in their backing for the massacre, a significant number of their parents are also lending tacit, sometimes open, support. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, along with most political leaders, intellectuals and media commentators, has loudly condemned the atrocity, but significant numbers of ordinary Israelis heavily qualify their criticism of the killings. Many declare that the Arabs "got what they deserved."

An opinion poll published recently showed that 50 per cent of Israelis should remain in Hebron, and 76 per cent said the government should not dislodge settlers.

Liberal Jewish religious leaders say they are deeply disturbed by the readiness of many Israelis to justify Goldstein's act on religious grounds, and are already moving to try to halt what they term "dangerous" and "demonic" interpretations of Judaism which "by osmosis" are entering the common language of ordinary people inside Israel proper. A group of

"Rabbis for Peace", Netiv Shalom, recently held an unprecedented demonstration outside the chief Rabbinate which they say has not gone far enough to condemn the atrocity. "We are concerned about the moral wellbeing of the Jewish people. There is growing demonic interpretation of Judaism and our responsibility is to show very clearly that the interpretation of Judaism given by the murderer is not Jewish. It should be placed outside the law and outside Judaism," said Moshe Halbertal, a Netivot Shalom leader.

Despite three years of peace negotiations and the election last year of a peace-making Labour government, paranoia and fear remain deeply rooted in the Israeli psyche, leading to fierce anti-Arab sentiments.

Most young Israelis experience "Arabs" who are sent to subdue their volatile neighbours, or who they see the image of t Palestinian "terrorists" standing up to Israeli forces, played over and over again on television.

What the response to the massacre confirms is that the support given to the perps among many Israelis did not spring from feelings of generosity towards Palestinians, but out of a desperate desire to shake off the load burden of the occupying Arab sentiments.

The desire of Israelis for political solution largely stemmed out of fear of the other side," said Yizhak Be'er, director of BTSele, the Israeli human rights group.

Mr. Rabin has made clear his personal disgust at Baruch Goldstein and kind. In an emotional speech to the Knesset, he said: "A Jew, as an Israeli, as a man and as a human being, I shamed over the disgrace imposed upon us by a degenerate murderer."

Nevertheless, the overall message from the government has been mixed. Rabin's comments have been neutralised by his failure to deeds to words. So far government has refused, remove even the most ha

Portuguese come in from margins for S. African vote

By Judith Matoff
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The Portuguese community, one of South Africa's largest white immigrant groups, is coming in from the political wilderness to demand a voice in the new post-apartheid system.

After years of sitting on the margins with no political voice of their own, Portuguese community leaders are trying to win a foothold in the first all-race elections on April 26.

The newly formed Luso South African Party (LUSAP) aims to capture at least two parliamentary seats to defend the rights of an estimated 400,000 to 700,000 people of Portuguese descent.

"The Portuguese community is one of the largest minority communities here but has never been directly represented in parliament," said Antonio de Gouveia, LUSAP's deputy president.

"We can offer the Portuguese community something no one else can — we speak the same language, understand their needs. We can help integrate the community."

He said many among his potential electorate were

shopkeepers and small business from around the Johannesburg area. Many are descendants of immigrants from the poor Atlantic island of Madeira who came to South Africa at the start of the century seeking a better life.

Others fled the turmoil in nearby Mozambique and Angola after independence from Portugal in the mid-1970s.

Many of the latter group fear similar upheaval after South Africa's first all-race elections. Portuguese diplomats report high numbers of people renewing their passports and taking prolonged holidays.

LUSAP hopes to reassure them that someone will look after them if they stay.

"We hope LUSAP will reduce the number of Portuguese leaving the country and give them a reason to stay," Mr. Gouveia said.

The close-knit communities defiantly cling to old ways. In suburbs south of Johannesburg, grocery shops bearing Portuguese names offer typical fare of olives and spicy chorizo sausage. Many of the older generation barely speak English and football clubs bear the name of teams back home.

"I don't want to be over-

confident but I have no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the Portuguese community are supporters of the National Party," he said of this month.

Moises Venancio, a political analyst with a Lisbon think-tank, saw the formation of LUSAP as an unusual development for a largely apolitical community that tended to keep a low profile, or run when the going got rough.

"The Portuguese are showing a commitment to the new South Africa by forming their own party. The fact that they are starting a new party is an example to the rest of the Portuguese community to allay fears and could help persuade them to stay."

The Portuguese government was non-committal about LUSAP, saying it could not involve itself in South African politics.

"We are completely neutral. But our general policy is that we encourage all Portuguese citizens or people of Portuguese origin here to fully participate in the new South Africa," Foreign Minister Jose Durao Barroso said in a recent visit.

But he said it would be a mistake for the Portuguese community to form a "political ghetto."

The Independent



March 17, 1994

Published Every Thursday

A host of talented artists give fine shape to End Of A Brave Man

By Mohammad Mashariqa

The successful television series *End Of A Brave Man*, which attracted viewers in Jordan, Syria and other parts of the Arab World during the month of Ramadan, was in fact a joint Jordanian-Syrian work although it was marketed as a Syrian series in the region.

Not many viewers have noticed the contribution by a team of Jordanian technicians who were involved in sound effects, music and direction of the series, nor did the local media draw attention to their participation to this successful achievement.

The director of the popular series was a Jordanian, Najdat Enzour, who had earlier directed a great number of Jordanian television programmes and series, including the well-known "Al Kaff Wal Makhriz" (The Palm And The Punch), and a movie depicting the oriental lifestyle, which has won several awards.

There was also Mohammad Bandoura, the well-known Jordanian television technician who did the sound effects and special effects in cooperation with his female colleague Rabah Shakshir.

However, the music in this series played a leading role in its success, as attested by a number of Syrian musicians like Suheil Arafeh who said the music has contributed to a great extent to the series' great success.

The composer was Tareq Al Nasser, a 25-year-old Jordanian musician whose works are best known in the cartoons in the earlier years of his endeavours. In the past two years, Nasser composed music for the series *Petra Caravan* and *Death Of A Bride* and songs for the Syrian singer Amal Arafeh as a sign of his new developed talents. Nasser's resort to Arab tradition in his music and the use of a new assortment of musical instruments have perhaps helped him achieve success.

"When Najdat Enzour presented me with the scenario and the words of the introductory song of the series (*End Of A Brave Man*), I felt I had to read the whole novel which was written by Hanna Mina. Because reading gives one a better insight on the various characters and the events," said Nasser. "Indeed, reading the novel enabled me to better compose the music for this fine work of art."

Nasser attributed the success of the series' music to the fact that he was familiar with the life of people inhabiting the Syrian coast, noting that he actually interacted with the characters through his own feelings and with the natural environment, by remembering his own life among the local residents and their surroundings.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

"Furthermore, Hanna Mina introduced me to Gabriel Saadeh, an old musician, who briefed me on the historic events of the novel and the musical instruments used during that era, as well as the kind of songs sung by the fishermen of the time," added Nasser.

"It was this familiarity with the environment that influenced my music which was composed in cooperation with two Jordanian musicians who played the Buzoq and the Oud (lute)," he pointed out.

"I have composed the music with a new vision and with new distributions that reflected well on the scenes of sadness and gloom or enthusiasm and zeal. But in either case it was all along linked with the introductory piece, thus making the work look integrated and in unison," Nasser said.

"I have contributed more than eight hours of music to

this masterpiece — a relatively high rate of contribution in an Arabic television series — and this is perhaps attributed to Enzour's method of direction," Nasser pointed out. He said music was essentially needed to cover the long moments of silence under the camera, and music was used as a substitute for speech in such intervals.

Indeed, he continued, "music soared significantly in the final phases of the series when the hero (Mufid) was contemplating the sea while in his crippled condition, he was ruminating his memories as an inmate in Arwad Jail. "The music rises to a crescendo for a while before declining abruptly to a low tone as the hero reaches the final conclusion of death," Nasser noted. "Viewers must have sensed Mufid's inner feelings about life and death in the final episode before death actually came to the man thanks to that music" continued Nasser. This technique, he added, was instrumental in preparing the viewers for the last act.

Nasser advocates the role of sensational music in expressing the feelings of characters of a play, stressing that such technique has a far deeper effect on the viewer than the hitherto traditional methods. "It took me six whole months shuttling between Amman, Damascus and Beirut, and studying the environment and other relevant preparations before I was able to come up with this illustrative music for the series."

The Petra Musical Group, which participated in this work, has no doubt benefitted a great deal from the technical and musical distribution experiment "which prompted its members and myself to decide that our joint work from now on should be linked to and serving the traditional environment," Nasser said.

Expressing his own views about the future in the light of the series' success, Nasser said: "Perhaps the most



Jordanian musician Tareq Al Nasser

important lesson I have learnt from working a road was to realise that Jordan abounds with highly experienced and talented artists that can assume a big position among Arab artists."

"The producer of the *End Of A Brave Man* has aimed at presenting the viewers with high-quality work because he was keen on marketing the series, and no doubt our high-quality musical contribution was instrumental in helping him achieve his objective," Nasser said.

Fun with Barbie — glamour doll as cultural icon

By Frank Bajak
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Call her *sublime*. The most popular doll of all time. A cultural icon transcending generations. It's enough to get dozens of artists and designers all worked up.

Barbie, you see, is 35. The leggy, chesty molded plastic mannequin is adored, mocked and defrocked — even picketed — in a special anniversary show by mostly German artists at Berlin's premiere art exhibition hall, the Martin-Gropius-Bau.

One Barbie is "Lady Liberty," straddling a globe held aloft by two ken dolls, hot pink high-heels crossing the Atlantic. Another is

spray-painted white and pierced from head to ankle with a few hundred nails.

Or there's the life-size mannequin with the Barbie accessory-spangled gown and three-headed shoes, eyeglasses framed with Barbie arms and legs.

And lots of Barbies got their hair done — by stylists such as Vidal Sassoon.

"There has never been anything like this, to my knowledge, relating to a doll, let alone Barbie," said the doll's 77-year-old American creator, Ruth Handler.

"Over and over I've had it said to me by women," Ms. Handler said in a telephone interview from her Los Angeles home. "She was much more than a doll for them. She was part of

"Those are two words I had never heard before," she said.

But then there's never been anything like Barbie. an 11 1/2-inch (29-centimetre) figure with a flawless figure who transforms playing dolls."

With Barbie, girls became more than diaper-changing mothers. With this new adult doll, they could play out their dreams of adolescence and beyond.

Barbie at the prom. Barbie gets married. Barbie goes to the moon.

"Over and over I've had it said to me by women," Ms. Handler said in a telephone interview from her Los Angeles home. "She was much more than a doll for them. She was part of

them."

Ms. Handler got the idea for Barbie from the paper dolls with which her own daughter played. She found the model in 1956 in a European doll based on a comic-strip character, known as Lilli, from the German newspaper *Bild*.

"This was the first adult doll that I saw," said Ms. Handler.

Barbie — along with Ms. Handler's "play concept" of selling dolls and separate clothes and accessories — was introduced to a dubious market at the 1959 New York Toy Fair.

The blond, blue-eyed beauty in the black-and-white striped jersey bathing suit and sandals, named af-

ter Ms. Handler's daughter, proved a quick hit.

Several transformations later, Barbie is now available in lots of colours in more than 100 lands, and every two seconds, another Barbie is sold.

More than 700 million Barbie, Ken (the boyfriend created in 1961) and Skipper (the sister who appeared in 1964) dolls have been sold, according to Mattel, the toymaker Ms. Handler founded with her husband in 1945.

The idea for the "Art, Design And Barbie" exhibit came from Mattel's German operation, which told organisers that anything goes — except obscenity.

Among rejected offerings was one by an artist named Stiletto who saw in Barbie the long-legged streetwalkers of Berlin.

The exhibit ran through March 6. Organisers said it has travelled to Hamburg. Currently, there are no plans to take it abroad.

Russia has lost its superpower status but remains a power to reckon with in the Middle East, despite the severity of its economic crisis and internal threats. This new book analyses Soviet foreign policy in the Middle East from the 1917 revolution to the present. The emphasis is on the last four decades, when Soviet power and influence were at their peak. Vassiliev was for long a journalist for Pravda, before becoming a professor at the Institute for African Studies in Moscow. He shows himself bolder in his thinking than this conventional party background might lead the reader to expect, with independent judgements on many issues, from the cultivation of the Communist movement in the Middle East, Soviet relations with Aden and San'a, Syria and Iraq to Palestine and Israel.

The rise and fall of Soviet influence in the Middle East has been charted before, notably by Mohammad Heikal in *Sphinx And Commissar* and other books since 1978, but rarely so frankly by a Russian writer. Inevitably, Soviet relations with Egypt under Nasser and Sadat are given close attention here. It was in 1955 that Moscow broke the Western arms monopoly by its first arms deal to Egypt, with the centrepiece of Soviet-Egyptian cooperation becoming the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

Partly because of the inaccessibility of Soviet official records, much of the book's insights or revelations are built around interviews with anonymous Soviet diplomats and former policy-makers. These dialogues contain many examples of a refreshing frankness. But Soviet diplomatic reports to the Kremlin were less candid, nearly always reflecting what the Politburo wanted to hear. "There was a desire to see an imaginary world", rather than the imperfect one which actually existed.

An important shift in Soviet foreign policy, evident by the late 1960s, was greater emphasis on providing military assistance than development aid. The absence of official statistics prevents the measuring of the true value and costs to the USSR of its large-scale military aid to Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Libya, the two Yemens, Algeria and other Arab states. Sceptical though he is about the benefits, Vassiliev assumes the arms trade was in general financially profitable to Moscow, besides boosting its political influence. "By supplying sophisticated weaponry that could be maintained and operated only with the assistance of Soviet technicians to certain countries, such as Syria, Iraq and Libya, the USSR ensured the presence of considerable number of its military experts." However, adds Vassiliev "with rare exceptions the Soviet Union did not supply the latest models of military hardware."

Noting how firm the strategic alliance between the U.S. and Israel remains, the writer contrasts it with the numerous "friendship and cooperation agreements" made between the USSR and so many Arab states, those "ties of semi-alliance reduced to ashes".

For Russia in 1994, three regional states are key neighbours, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan, all sharing long, sensitive Russian or CIS borders guarded by Russian troops. Relations with these states are bound to remain important to Moscow, even if Arab countries of the Middle East also count. Predicting the future course of Russia's policy, Vassiliev states, "it will be neither pro-Arab nor pro-American; it will serve only its own interests. It will prefer to gamble on more than one horse, i.e. on the main forces in the region, sometimes even competing ones." Mutual cooperation between Middle Eastern states and some of the CIS republics may well develop on a sound basis through their geographical proximity.

But Moscow's diplomacy has another challenge in the Middle East, to play a helpful and subtle role in reaching peace settlements in serious regional problems, especially those of the Kurdish minorities living in Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria together with the ongoing war in Southern Sudan.

An additional complication arises from the independence of the ex-Soviet republics in Transcaucasia and Central Asia. Both regions are now effectively becoming part of the Middle East and are bound to experience political instability — Middle East International.

Anthony Hyman

Languages enter brave new world of technology

By Nelson Graves

Reuter

PARIS — Time was when learning a foreign language was all rote, repetition and raps on the knuckles.

Instead of mind-numbing vocabulary lists or the cacophony of a language laboratory, a student tackling a foreign tongue can now manipulate high-technology gadgets that create the linguistic equivalent of virtual reality.

The sights and accents of Rome, London, New York, Tokyo and Paris are but a computer keystroke away.

Last month the annual language fair in Paris, Expolangues, once largely the domain of publishers and travel agents, bristled with hardware in a display of technological progress.

Anyone comfortable with a personal computer and a mouse cannot help diving right in.

Want to improve your French accent? Try on a set of Aura-Lang headphones. The computer screen and sound lead you into a fictional restaurant where you're asked to order a meal.

Don't worry if the waiter doesn't understand, you won't starve. The computer, never short of patience, will help you work on that pronunciation.

Still having trouble? The computer displays a "sonogram" of the waiter's voice, beckoning you to repeat after him. When you speak, your voice traces its own sound graph below the waiter's showing you where to adjust your pronunciation.

Are you a lousy speller? Type "sofisicated" into a Franklin pocket computer and it replies "sophisticated".

Load your computer with a CD-Rom of the U.S. television series *Family Album* for a lesson in American culture and pronunciation like "I musta bought the wrong size jeans".

There are twice as many Americans learning English in the United States today as French," Mr. Miller said. "We need to have technological parity with those numbers."

Mr. Van Deth said Europe's push towards economic and political union had to be accompanied by greater respect for the continent's multitude of languages and cultures to ensure peace.

"If we think of European

nations as natural friends, we are doomed to failure," he said in an interview.

"Efforts by Charlemagne, Napoleon and Hitler to build a monolithic Europe failed, and the nations are in a miraculous balance. We have to accept our different historical traditions."

Mr. Van Deth does not begrudge the role of English as a common linguistic currency but says it cannot open the door to cross-border understanding. "English allows us to speak from one yard to another but doesn't admit us into a neighbour's garden."

Language instruction in France has been hampered by a war among teachers defending linguistic terrain, he says.

The government profes-

ses to favour diversification but the vast majority of students continue to study English as their first foreign language, followed by Spanish and German.

Mr. Van Deth said the enthusiasm for languages that preceded the establishment of a single European market in 1993 waned dramatically as the economy languished after the Gulf War and the drive for European Union hit a rough patch.

Companies are spending less on language training and people are opting for fewer trips to dabble in foreign languages.

"It's a temporary setback," Mr. Van Deth said. "Man in the 21st century will be a citizen not only of his country but of larger groups like Europe."

in the Paris newspaper *Libération*. "It is a testimony to the melancholy for paradise lost."

Over the centuries, France has shrunk from mighty empire to secondary power, losing wars, colonies and influence. The French language has been largely supplanted by English in international forums. More ominously, to some French officials, it has been bastardised with English words.

With this in mind, Culture Minister Jacques Toubon decreed language a geopolitical concern. A foreign tongue can become an "instrument of domination," he said, and protecting French must be a national cause.

Foreign incursions spur French to defend identity

house, recently wrote — in English, no less — for the magazine *Globe Hebdo*.

He was criticising the latest measure in the campaign to rehabilitate the national identity: A proposed language bill that would require use of French for most commercial purposes, including advertisements. Offenders would be fined.

It's not the first time the French have voiced fears of cultural demise.

Former Culture Minister Jack Lang railed against American "cultural im-

perialism" in 1982, shortly after his Socialist Party came to power. As far back as the 19th century, the French were complaining about English words cropping up in business correspondence.

"The French are very addicted to criticising themselves and being very worried," said Theodore Zeldin, a British author who explores the French character in his books. "I do not think the French culture is being threatened."

But the government transforms into

Scanners — those amazing tools

By Jean-Claude Elias

On their very first training course, personal computer (PC) users are usually told that the computer is a "black box" that processes an incoming flow of data and then sends it back as outgoing data. The incoming data is fed into the black box via various "devices called "input units" while the outgoing, processed data, is sent to the operator via "output units."

What happens in between the input and the output, inside the black box, is of little interest to those who are not particularly technically oriented and wish to see the results only.

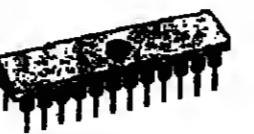
The keyboard was originally the exclusive input unit. It was joined in the mid-eighties by the now famous mouse. The most fascinating, modern input device however is the scanner.

PC scanners are available in two formats. A pocket-size, hand held model, roughly 4x6 inches large and the A4 model that can take documents the size of a standard letterhead paper. In the beginning, scanners were only used to feed photographs, maps, drawings, graphs and all sorts of images into the computer. Operators who thought that their wonderful machines could take only text rejoiced.

Before scanners were introduced, the only way to process drawings with a PC was to actually do the drawing from the start, using the available software. In addition to being difficult and slow, this process did not give the users the possibility to take advantage of already existing documents.

Once people became familiar with operations like scanning their own photograph and merging it in a text for a superior presentation for example, a whole world opened to them — the one of Desk Top Publishing (DTP). The art of DTP now lets private users prepare bulletins, newsletters, even complete books, and pub-

chip talk



lish them in a very professional format.

The most recent scanners application however is the Optical Character Recognition (OCR); the fastest, most efficient way to enter text in a computer. You can take a written (typed or even hand written) sheet, insert it in the scanner and the PC will literally read it, placing it as a text file in your favourite word processing programme. You can then edit it, adding, deleting or modifying whatever you wish.

OCR can save you tens, hundreds of hours of tedious keyboard typing. Currently, however, it is far from being perfect. If you are scanning an already typed document, the error rate will be around ten to five per cent. You would have therefore to retype such a percentage of the text. Barely acceptable. If you are scanning a hand written document, the error rate will vary from 15 per cent in the best case, up to 90 per cent in the worst, making the whole operation useless.

Those who always scan the same handwriting — i.e. of the same person — can spend a little time "teaching" the scanner to better "understand" it. The process is rewarding and not very difficult. In such cases the error rate can drop down to four or three per cent, tremendously increasing the efficiency of the whole system.

Scanners are also useful to the owners of PCs fitted with a fax card. Without a scanner, a PC fax can only transmit texts or drawings created from within the computer. With a scanner, existing documents, sheets can also be scanned and faxed making the system very complete and professional.

Hand held scanners cost around JD 200 while A4-size units are around JD 1000 to JD 1500. Some models work only in black and white, but colour ones are becoming increasingly popular. Most models and brands are available in Jordan.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- Ringworm is not a worm, it is a fungus.
- The famous American composer, Joseph Griller, wrote a musical note for the American Constitution so as people would be able to chant it as a song.
- Friends throw old shoes at newly wedded couples because it is considered a lucky omen.
- A 92-year old woman used to run 24 kilometres daily.
- The estimated weight of the Great Pyramid of Egypt is 6,648,000 tonnes.
- La Paz, Bolivia, has the highest altitude of any city in the world.

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- Upon my word. *Bishara!*
- I like all kinds of fruit. *Ohib koll suwa al fukha.*
- Lots of people think so. *Kathir minna'na yazzu zallik.*
- Tea is my favourite drink. *Ash-shay sharabi al-mufaddal.*
- Everything comes to him who waits. *Maa sahar zafar.*
- I've lost weight. *Laked khaffa wazza.*
- I admire your hospitality. *Ezai moqabib kifaramik.*
- I'll tell you a nice story. *Se'shool laka kissa latifa.*
- He likes gaiety and fun. *Hawa yohib al-marah wal-taha.*
- I wish you every success. *Ata'mana laka koll najah.*

YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

DELIRIUM

It is a state of restlessness in which the patient is only partly conscious. Delirium usually accompanies a high fever, and the patient may throw himself about, pick at the bedclothes and mutter to himself without ceasing. A delirious patient is nearly always in serious danger, but if for some reason medical help is not readily available it may help to sponge him down with tepid water until the doctor arrives. This will reduce the temperature of the body, and will often quieten the patient down for a while. A special form of delirium known as delirium tremens is associated with chronic alcoholism, and may follow an exceptionally heavy bout of drinking. A patient educated to this condition will require treatment in a hospital or institution.

JOKES

- A blind man, escorted by a friend, entered a place where many of his acquaintances were assembling.
FRIEND: Who is it that's coming with you?
FLIND MAN: He's one of my closest bulldozers.
- The bus was full and overcrowded. It was very hot that day. One of the passengers got on and unmercifully trod on a man's foot. The man steamed with anger while the other coldly tried to apologise. Rejecting the passenger's apology, the angry man said:
"Do you know who I am?"
"Who could you be?" You're a mere passenger like me, 'dya here riding a bus for one piastre in such an immense 'eat!"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Who wrote under the pseudonym Boz?
2. What is another name for pyrotechnics?
3. An invention began as a penny-farthing. What is it now?
4. Which Australian balladist was nicknamed 'Banjo'?
5. If Uncle Sam symbolises the United States, who symbolises Britain?
6. What do you expect to find in an aviary?

PUZZLES

(A) POISON FROM TREES
A deadly poison may be made from one-eighth of chestnut, one-fourth of pine, one-third of elm, one-fifth of maple, one-sixth of willow, one-seventh of hickory, and one-third of an oak.
What poison is it?

(B) OUT OF THE SQUARE
A square figure can be cut into four pieces which can be rearranged to make the shape shown here.
How would you cut the square? →



The legacy

By E. Yaghi

Ramadan 24, Amman — Black clouds fled across the violent dark sky, pursued by a harsh wind. The air, cold and vengeful penetrated the little room and outside amidst the howls and groans of the torrents of weather, a cock crowed thrice. The whitewashed house trimmed in blue withstood the onslaught of the storm while the dunum of land surrounding it seemed to shudder and buckle under it for shelter. The grapevines hung listless and lifeless, their brown limbs tired of reaching for an unknown destination, gnawed themselves to stunted growth and a few grey-withered leaves clung against the rushing cold front until at last the wind vigorously wrenches them free and bore them off to an unknown destination. Somehow, the lemon trees in the large yard still bore their yellow fruit which swung heavily like the pendulum on a clock of doom. The rose bushes exposed their bareness and not a hint of growth appeared on the yet barren mulberry trees that leaned against the bordering wall for support.

Just before the dawn prayer, inside the three-room house, an old man lay on a bed, his eyes rolled upwards towards the ceiling seeing nothing as his mind wove in and out of consciousness into the past, back to the present and through the future. He thought he faintly heard his first wife's voice when she had been ill, when she summoned him to her deathbed to hear her murmur out the words: "Listen carefully my husband, although you are still strong, I won't be here to take care of you any longer. You need a wife to look after you since your sons have all moved away and abandoned us. I have some money hidden in the bedroom closet. Take it, it's all yours. I saved it for such a time of need. Now, use it and get married to a good woman who will carry on my duties."

He balked at the thought at first, but after her death he faced a dark lonely house upon his return from his job on a tractor. There were no warm home cooked meals, no one to keep him company. After some months of solitaire sojourn, he took his wife's savings and went and got himself a bride, who appeared as if she might never get married except to someone like him. He, an elderly man with thinning white hair, brought his bride, a foreign Arab, to his small home and surrounding dunum of land. There she dwelt, a serving good wife who bore him four children. His condition deteriorated until he was forced to quit his job. He then underwent several operations which aided in his further physical decline. During Ramadan, he was only the shadow of the man he used to be. One day his wife wheeled him out onto the porch in a wheelchair where his once robust frame now was only sharp angles and bones and his head, too weak to be supported by his neck, slumped over his chest and he remained almost oblivious to the

laughter of his children or the world around him.

Back on his bed, he opened his eyes for a few moments and stretched his neck towards the brightly painted tan door which stood ajar. Next to it, sat his four children in a row on a couch near his bed. Their faces glistered in the light like wet rocks in rain as if they had been crying, could it be for him? He knew he was going to die, but it was like a dream. He closed his eyes and he was young again, running through wild young fields laced with poppies and violets which danced to the breeze to the song of meadowlarks and the flutter of seagulls and not too far away he could hear the roar of the sea calling him, demanding him to come and walk barefoot in its waves.

He felt a hand on his shoulder and the voice of his wife calling him back to the present saying: "Abu Deeb, is there anything I can get you?"

His mouth framed a word but no sound came out. Again he fought his weakness and puffed out a gasp of "water!"

Im Deeb disappeared and he lapsed into no man's land where the living fear to tread until again, a strong young hand raised up his head gently to press a glass of water to his cracked dry lips. He tried to swallow but he felt he was drowning and as if his wife read his eyes, she lowered his head back onto his weary pillow.

He heard someone beckon him saying in an angelic musical voice: "Come, come with me. Take my hand and I will show you a whole new world."

An apparition held out her hand. He stared at her, there she was, his first wife looking just like she did when she was 20. He smiled and as he stretched out his hand to grab hers, he heard small children crying somewhere in the background. Just as he floated away with the angel of his past he thought he heard a deep wail. And so it was, he slipped away from the era of the living. Later when the sun crept up through the black clouds and rain, a wooden table was brought to Abu Deeb's home along with a wooden coffin. His stiff body was placed on the wooden table for his final earthly washing and then he was placed in a coffin and carried by his first wife's sons to his grave. There he was placed in the silent cold earth and who his relatives who came to pay their final respects departed, he was left with only his deeds.

Outside his small house, the wooden table and the coffin, their purpose served, stood empty in the pouring rain. Inside, four young children were left without a father and the good woman who had served him until his death sat alone perhaps wondering how she could manage without him and who could explain to her youngest, a toddler, that he would never see his father again.

Was he wrong to remarry in his old age and leave four children orphaned? Who can judge?

Cartoons keep Anglo-German rivalry live and kicking

By Kevin Liffey

— Reuters

BONN — Right on cue for the start of an exhibition of Anglo-German cartoons in Bonn, British caricaturists are showing that their image of Germany has not changed much in 50 years.

News that Britain's last volume carmaker, Rover, was being taken over by Germany's BMW spawned a drawing in the tabloid Daily Star of a Nazi officer standing in a Rover giving a Hitler salute as the car came off the production line.

Predictably, the cartoon was reproduced the next day in German papers with some bemusement that the British had still not buried their resentment over World War II.

The collection of German and British cartoons brought together by Germany's overseas cultural organisation, the Goethe Institute, and Osnabrück University, shows that stereotypes are deployed with alacrity in both directions.

German cartoons are full of images of Britain as stubbornly isolationist and economically pitiable. A 1976 drawing in the weekly Die Zeit shows the

"Well Englander," bellowing a muscular German thug at a rather feeble-looking Englishman in a 1990 Daily Mirror cartoon.

"answer the question why do you not like us?"

The cartoonists in Britain's popular tabloid press

have one favourite characterisation of Germans — as the Nazis Britain fought in World War II.

When the German soccer authorities decided in January to go ahead with a Germany-England friendly in Berlin which by coincidence falls on April 30, Hitler's birthday, newspapers could easily have reprinted a 1990 cartoon from the Daily Star.

Ahead of a World Cup semifinal between the teams, the paper portrayed it as a replay of the World War II confrontation. It showed an ageing Hitler, still alive in a licentious South American exile, watching the match on television.

"Will you be paying in pounds or Deutschmarks. Your Majesty?" asks a smug master of ceremonies in a 1992 Daily Star cartoon as the powerful German central bank, the Bundesbank, entertains the queen to dinner after another currency crisis.

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Jose Carreras — the last of a dying breed

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jose Carreras sees himself as the end of the line, the last tenor this century with worldwide popularity.

"There haven't been any great debuts in almost 25 years, since Carreras followed Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo onto the stage. At 47, Carreras is the youngest of the trio and No. 3 in a pecking order that has no No. 4."

"I'm probably the last exponent of a generation of singers," he said in an interview, a day after meeting with his two colleagues in New York.

When the three were coming up, music fans were used to hearing greats such as Carlo Bergonzi, Franco Corelli, Mario Del Monaco, Giuseppe Di Stefano, Alfredo Kraus, James McCracken, Richard Tucker and Jon Vickers. Now, opera impresarios can't

seem to create any young stars of that magnitude.

"I don't try to be philosophical," Carreras says. "Part of the reason could be the society we are living in these days. We had a hunger.... The new generation — they live in a much more comfortable position — not just in the music, opera world — but in society."

At the best houses in the world — the Metropolitan in New York, the Royal Opera in London, the Vienna State Opera and Teatro alla Scala in Milan — fans are bored by routine casts on many nights and wonder where the great young voices are.

"I go around the world and hear young singers, young talents, good talents," Carreras says. "But there are no appealing personalities, no charismatic personalities, people who go on stage and the audience — it's won over before the note come out of the mouth." Work is important, but

rushing the globe from new production to new production no longer is the top priority.

"I prefer rather than to have an engagement, (to have) a nice weekend, with my friends, playing cards and talking about all the superficial things and deep thoughts. I prefer to permit myself the luxury to sing one less concert. Ten years ago, I wouldn't have done that for no reason. To sing and to perform and to be on stage has been a wonderful thing for me."

Following his professional debut in Barcelona in 1972, he was a part of the music world's whirlwind. Four years later, he sang for Herbert von Karajan at the Salzburg Easter Festival in a Verdi Requiem, and his career soared.

Seeing the system has given him clues as to what has gone wrong.

"It's very difficult to find someone with experience to teach you certain things."

he says. "In the old times, there were Toscanini, Furtwangler, Bruno Walter."

Following the deaths of Karajan and Leonard Bernstein, the only remaining conductors considered "great" by most critics are Sir Georg Solti and Carlos Kleiber. Teaching no longer is a top priority for music administrators.

"Now, you arrive in an opera house, in 24 hours you do a rehearsal and then you're on stage," Carreras says.

Because he hasn't been offered the right roles and what he feels is the necessary rehearsals, Carreras hasn't sung at the Metropolitan since the 1986-87 season, when he performed Don Jose in Bizet's Carmen. He has sung recitals at Carnegie Hall, and on Feb. 10 will become the first classical artist to give a solo recital at Radio City Music Hall.

Carreras' latest recording is a tribute to Mario Lanza, whose performance in The Great Caruso, a 1951 movie, helped form the careers of Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras. After seeing it at age 6 or 7 with his parents, Carreras decided to start singing.

"They were a little worried at the beginning," he said of his parents, "because I closed myself in the bathroom."

Four decades later, he's at the top of his field. On July 7, 1990, he appeared in the famous three tenors concert at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome, along with Pavarotti and Domingo. They already are discussing the programme for the encore performance at Dodger Stadium next July 16, the night before the World Cup soccer final.

While Zubin Mehta conducted last time, Carreras said it's possible that James Levine, the Metropolitan's artistic director, will lead this performance, which is



Jose Carreras

sure to be replayed millions of times when the videotape and compact disc are released.

Carreras says the programme will be different, which is why it interests him. Later this season, he'll sing Fedora at Covent Gar-

den (he also sang at Barcelona, Spain, recently); Carmen in Munich, Germany; and Samson et Delilah in Vienna.

"It has to be a joy for me to sing every time I go on stage," he says. "It has to be a new challenge."

Canadian model seeks fame on her own terms

By Samantha Conti
Reuter

MILAN — She's on the short side, wears a blonde crew cut and a green dragon tattoo on her skull — not exactly the portrait of today's glamorous supermodel.

She stomps down the runway, shooting bored looks or sneers at photographers, while other models seduce them with smiles.

Eve Salvail, a 22-year-old French Canadian, is trying to stand out. She's battling to make it big as an international runway model — but on her own terms.

In an industry that jealously chooses its queens, Salvail aims to wear the crown... of the anti-model.

So far, she's done well. She was a familiar face on the runways at Milan's autumn and winter ready-to-wear shows, and was off to Paris to model in the French equivalent.

"I get used a lot because designers don't have to pay me a lot," Salvail said. "Sometimes they don't even want to pay — they just want to send clothes, but clothes don't pay the rent," she told Reuters in

an interview between shows.

Salvail has smooth white skin and a long, upturned nose. At five feet eight inches, she is on the short side for a business that likes most of its models tall and leggy.

But she is not one who was born to follow. She had a big green dragon etched onto her shaven skull in a Tokyo tattoo parlour — what she calls the most painful time of her life.

Salvail, whose tattoo is now masked by bleached blonde hair, chose the dragon because she thought it would grab attention.

"I started crying when the artist just did a little test on my head," she said. "It was like having a rusty razor blade dig into your skull for three hours. But it was worth it. Now I know I can face any kind of physical pain — for three hours."

Designers and the public know Salvail, but not necessarily by her name. Most call her "the one with the tattoo."

They also know her because of her runway persona. Like a sullen adolescent fresh from a fight with her

parents, she storms along the catwalk past beaming supermodels like Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell.

"I walk that way for protection," Salvail said. "I tried and I can't do the little model walk. I think people would laugh at me if I tried, and say that I walked really bad."

But has the strategy worked?

Salvail makes an average of \$1,000 per show — the lower end of the scale for women who are considered "up-and-coming" models. The most they usually earn is about \$5,000 per show.

Supermodels like Schif-fer, Campbell, Christy Turlington and Carla Bruni can earn \$15,000 — sometimes more — for a show.

"I work too hard for the money I'm making," she said. "I'm on a plane twice a week which makes me dehydrated and constipated. Sometimes I don't even get my period."

Salvail said her hours at the Milan shows ran from about eight in the morning until one a.m. the following day.

In the last year she has made \$75,000 before taxes — a pittance compared to

her famous colleagues.

Agency fees, she said, consume about 20 per cent of her salary, and she has to pay all of her own expenses.

She and her agent Pina Rizzi, an Italian-Canadian, try to stay with friends when they are on the road because first class hotels are too expensive.

Some fashion experts say Salvail just has to be patient.

"Eve is a fresh face, she's interesting and modern. She's today's woman," said Gabriella Mazzei, who works for Showork, a company used by designers to hire models for their shows.

"She gets work because designers like her — not because she's cheap. She's paid well, I think, and with time she should make more money," Ms. Mazzei told Reuters.

But Salvail said she doesn't know how long she can hold out.

"I have to ask for more money. If it doesn't work I'll just stop, I could find something else to do — of course it wouldn't pay as much as it wouldn't be as glamorous, but maybe I would have more fun."

Canadian model Eve Salvail presents a black velvet evening dress during a recent 1994/95 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection show in Paris (AFP photo)

Abbott works new Broadway magic at age 106

By Bruce Olson
Reuter

NEW YORK — George Abbott won a Pulitzer Prize when he was 72, directed a Tony-winner when he was 96, and this year, at 106, he took a job as a script doctor to help put a fresh face on an old pal.

But even as this legend of Broadway worked his magic in the revival of the 1955 musical *Damn Yankees*, Abbott started feeling his age.

"It really hit me the last year. I can't walk, I have a hard time seeing. Hell, they

built me a pool at my house. I got in it, and I sunk," he told Reuters in a recent interview.

He didn't sink with *Damn Yankees*, however. The script revisions swept away any cobwebs the musical might have developed in the 39 years since it won eight Tonys.

It's an Abbott-stamped musical all the way — peppy, flashy, touching and old-fashioned without being maudlin or trite.

The musical centres on a fervent baseball fan who sells his soul to the devil in hopes of his last-place

Washington senators team can beat the hated New York Yankees, which in 1955 had won the American League title six times in the previous eight years.

"Obviously, the Yankees aren't what they were when we first wrote it, but that doesn't matter," Abbott said. "It is about the characters — about the devil and his effect on people."

"Satan is a jolly old fellow and he's got a lot of tricks. It's all a good joke."

And it's about dancing — the dancing is sensational."

When Abbott co-wrote and directed the original

Damn Yankees, it was Number 92 on his list of Broadway credits. When it opens this week at the Marquis Theatre it will number 125.

"We were able to use some new pyrotechnics this time around," Abbott said of the special effects that brought fire and light to the Marquis.

The revival includes references to the fate, dreading FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in drag and to Senator Joe McCarthy's cold war-era witch hunt that would not have played well in the 1950s. There's even a

little male nudity, a hit that delighted the preview crowd.

Bebe Neuwirth, who won two Emmys on *Cheers* playing Lithia, the psychiatrist wife of Dr. Frazier Crane,

starred as Lola, the devil's seductive assistant who was played by Gwen Verdon in the original play and subsequent movie.

The role of Applegate, the devil (*Ray* "My Favourite Martian" Wallston in the original) went to Victor Garber, a Broadway veteran who has been nominated three times for a Tony.

He and Neuwirth will probably both be nominated again but without the script doctoring, the new tines and new book by Abbott and director Jack O'Brien, the play could have been rusty.

Rust is not, however, an Abbott trait and he's been around long enough to know how to make a hit, age or not.

His 106 years means when Abbott first played Broadway, as an actor in *The Misleading Lady*, Babe Ruth, the greatest Yankee of all, was an 18-year-old without a pro contract.

For the recording, music scholar Arts Wodehouse gathered the piano rolls from collectors around the world and played them back on a Yamaha Disklavier, a computerised grand piano that plays music digitally recorded on floppy disks.

When Abbott won the Pulitzer for *Fiorello* in 1959, Mickey Mantle, the greatest

player of the *Damn Yankees* era, was 28, in his prime.

Mantle, who entered the Hall of Fame in 1974, has been retired for 28 years.

When Abbott directed *On Your Toes* to a Tony in 1983, Reggie Jackson, the greatest Yankee of the current era, was 37 and had already been traded to the California Angels. Jackson, who entered the Hall of Fame last year, has been retired for seven years.

Abbott's Hall of Fame numbers include (as a writer and/or director) *The Pajama Game*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Pal Joey*, *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*, *Life With Father* and on and on.

But now, George Abbott says, he's getting old.

"I'm afraid I'll fall down and won't be able to get up," he says. "When I was 100, I felt just fine, now I'm getting weak."

That may be because earlier this year he had a pacemaker installed, replacing one that was put in when he was 96.

"This time they put a computer chip in there. Last time they put in a pacemaker with a 10-year battery. But I outlived it," Abbott says with a laugh that sounds a lot like the cackle you hear at the Marquis coming from a certain Mr. Applegate.

The set of two compact discs, which includes four recordings made in the abbey since 1973, has sold 300,000 copies in Spain since November, making two platinum and one gold disc in pop chart sales and, on classical charts, platinum 12 times over. It edged out popular Cuban vocalist Gloria Estefan from the top spot in the Spanish charts for six consecutive weeks.

The producers believe the monks' plainsong offers a tranquil alternative to discordant, rebel music such as grunge, "bakalao" and rap.

"The new generation is hungry for spirituality."

Chart-busting monks make international debut

By Tracey Ober
Reuter

SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS, Spain — The pop music term "classic hits" has taken on a new meaning with the international release of centuries-old Gregorian chants recorded in Spain by Benedictine monks.

The recordings, made in the Abbey of Silos in northern Spain, have been surprisingly popular among Spaniards in the 16 to 26 age group who are more used to rhythm-driven music videos.

Their phenomenal success is focusing international attention on the 36-member community of monks that has been quietly studying religious manuscripts for more than 1,000 years.

"We are surprised by the success and delighted that people enjoy the chants, but if the press comes here every day like today, it would disturb our peace and serenity," said Father Miguel Vivanco.

When the producers announced they were launching the chants worldwide, some 100 journalists from international television, radio and news organisations invaded the tiny town of Silos to find out the secret of their success.

They thrust microphones and cameras into the faces of the startled monks, who eschew publicity and rarely venture out of the abbey. Attendance at their midday mass has grown as their music has risen on the Spanish charts, but their serene routine of prayer and study has remained unchanged.

"Do you want to be a rock star?" asked one journalist.

"No, I'm just a monk. This is not singing, it's a form of prayer for me," said Father Miguel.

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The producers believe the monks' plainsong offers a tranquil alternative to discordant, rebel music such as grunge, "bakalao" and rap.

"The new generation is hungry for spirituality."

Piano rolls of Gershwin hit top of charts

By Samuel Fromartz
Reuter

NEW YORK — American composer George Gershwin, who died more than 50 years ago, is topping the music charts again — thanks to a unique combination of musical recording technologies that span the 20th century.

Gershwin Plays Gershwin: The Piano Rolls utilises music technologies from the beginning and end of the century to revisit the piano rolls he created 70 to 80 years ago for player pianos.

and *An American In Paris*, an elaborate and stunning orchestral work played on two pianos.

AIDS discoverer seeks cash for pioneering research

PARIS — The French discoverer of the AIDS virus has appealed for international funding to pay for his work to check its explosive spread worldwide.

Professor Luc Montagnier, in an interview to mark the first year of his World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention, said he planned to build research centres for people infected with the virus HIV in France and the Ivory Coast.

He acknowledged he had raised only a fraction of the money needed to fund the project.

The centres could play a key role in helping increase the life expectancy of those contaminated by the HIV virus that causes AIDS, he said.

"The problem with AIDS research is that we have no time to waste. We have to go as fast as possible in both the search for therapy and for a vaccine," said Prof. Montagnier, a Pasteur Institute researcher who identified HIV in 1983.

"The plan is for the research centres to take in HIV-infected patients who are not very ill, and to have a laboratory on site which would carry out tests we have designed to find the best therapy possible," he said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says the number of people contaminated by the HIV virus

will grow from 10 million to 40 million by the end of the decade.

For those infected with the HIV virus, there is usually a 10-year "silent period" before the virus leads to AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). Prof. Montagnier said researchers did not know how to intervene during this period.

"The blood cells we have to study in AIDS research die very quickly. Having the laboratories close to the patients, in the same building, would be very important," he said.

Within two years, as opposed to the five-year delay in current experiments, researchers could find the best combination of therapy techniques, he said.

Prof. Montagnier said on launching his foundation, associated with the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), that he would seek to promote bold research that official institutes were reluctant to undertake.

Asked if the centres would be the first of their kind, he answered: "To my knowledge, yes. There are already campuses with laboratories close by. But they are not integrated and they are on a small scale."

The foundation has so far raised only four million francs (\$690,000). Prof. Montagnier said. He said he needed 100 million francs (\$17 million) to pay for a

centre to be built at Paris' private St Joseph Hospital.

Another centre would be built in Abidjan with funding by African banks including the African Development Bank. Prof. Montagnier said it would boost

research into the history of HIV infection in Africa.

The continent is the hardest hit but least able to fight the disease.

Since the HIV virus identified by Prof. Montagnier hit Africa some 15 years

ago, more than eight million people have been infected in sub-Saharan Africa — more than half the HIV-positive people in the world.

Prof. Montagnier says scientists have hit a dead

end in their efforts to produce an effective anti-AIDS vaccine and must now explore new ways of making one work.

"This is the time to rethink the vaccine because the first avenues we ex-

plored are wrong. They have reached a dead end," Prof. Montagnier told Reuters.

"I'm not saying there won't be a vaccine. In any case it will take a long time and it won't solve every problem. We have to foresee living with the virus for a long time to come," he said.

Prof. Montagnier discussed logistical problems in developing efficient vaccination programmes in Third World countries where AIDS is spreading most rapidly.

"Even if there was a vaccine that worked in the laboratory, it would take years to distribute it so that it could play a role in stemming the epidemic."

Researchers have warned that a vaccine could raise complex problems for health policymakers that include how to finance vaccination programmes and liability issues for manufacturers.

When Prof. Montagnier is not flying around the world raising money for research, he is in his laboratory exploring evidence that certain bacteria must be present when HIV invades the body.

"I am realistic," Prof. Montagnier said. "All avenues must be explored at the same time. We don't know which one will be the right one. But I think that we will succeed. That we will have a vaccine."

AIDS spreading fastest among heterosexuals

ATLANTA (R) — Researchers have reported that for the first time AIDS is spreading fastest among heterosexuals who have no reported contact with two high-risk groups — intravenous drug users and bisexual men.

The U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said a 1993 survey shows that, by a conservative estimate, nine per cent, or 9,300, of 103,500 new AIDS cases last year arose from heterosexual contact, up from 1.9 per cent in 1985.

The proportion of AIDS cases involving homosexual contact between men fell below 50 per cent for the first time, from 66.5 per cent in 1992 to 46.6 per cent, according to the study.

But most significant are figures showing that the biggest group of heterosexual cases — 49.7 per cent — consists of people with HIV-infected sexual partners whose risk for contracting the disease was unknown or went unreported.

Up to now, AIDS among heterosexuals has been attributed largely to contact with intravenous drug users, a category that represented 42.3 per cent of heterosexually transmitted AIDS cases in 1993.

Patricia Fleming, chief of reporting and analysis for the CDC's HIV/AIDS Division, said the findings could mean the disease is breaking free of traditional risk groups and beginning to spread more broadly through the heterosexual community.

But she said the continued prevalence of AIDS among minorities and women led researchers to suspect that many more cases involve drug users and bisexuality than are being reported.

"We're monitoring this group because if it turns out that the partners have been injecting-drug users or bisexual men, then we're still seeing primary HIV transmission," Ms. Fleming said. "But if not, then we're seeing a broader transmission into the heterosexual population."

Women make up 66 per cent of all heterosexually transmitted AIDS cases and up to now have largely contracted the disease from drug users or bisexual men.

But the new figures, which show increasing rates among teenagers and young adults, could indicate that women in the same category are now transmitting the disease to the general heterosexual populace.

"We don't want the public to get the message that it is only an epidemic of gay men and injecting-drug users," said Ms. Fleming.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a fatal disease caused by the HIV virus, which spreads through the transfer of bodily fluids.

Heterosexuals with the highest risk for HIV infection are teenagers. Adults with more than one sexual partner, people who suffer from other sexually transmitted diseases and others who live in areas where AIDS is prevalent, particularly the south and the northeast.

Overall, the CDC study showed a 111 per cent rise in the number of AIDS cases reported in the United States. But the agency pointed out that the figures were skewed by a 1993 case redefinition that dramatically increased the numbers.

Based on the pre-1993 AIDS surveillance definition, the total number of cases declined two per cent.

An aspirin a day: Better than apple?

By Jane E. Brody

NEW YORK — "Cheap 100-Year-Old Household Drug Found to Fight Heart Attacks, Strokes, Cancer, Etc." sounds like a too-good-to-be-true headline.

But dozens of studies involving more than a million people have hailed such a

drug. It is none other than ordinary aspirin, the standby for reducing pain, fever and inflammation.

The findings of recent studies strongly suggest that an aspirin a day — or at least every other day — may be better than an apple at keeping the doctor away.

Aspirin, these studies in-

dicate, can reduce a person's chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke and of developing cancers of the colon and other digestive organs.

It may also improve brain function in people with dementia who have suffered little strokes, ward off or reduce the severity of mig-

raine headaches and help prevent hazardous high blood pressure in pregnant women. Also being studied are aspirin's possible roles in preventing cataracts and averting recurrences of gallstones.

And, in general, these benefits accrue from very low doses of the drug,

QUESTIONABLE DEPS

By Harold B. County

tim might not be able to receive immediate medical attention.

The latest excitement surrounds the observation that regular users of aspirin have reduced rates of cancers of the colon, rectum, stomach and esophagus. These cancers combined cause about 81,000 deaths a year in the United States.

Colorectal cancer alone is the United States' second leading cause of cancer deaths and the leading cancer killer among nonsmokers.

The most telling study to date, conducted by the American Cancer Society, involved more than 660,000 men and women whose health status has been monitored for a decade.

It suggested that as aspirin in use rose, the risk of cancer death fell; those who used aspirin 16 or more times a month were about half as likely to die of colon cancer as nonusers.

Looking at all four digestive system cancers together, cancer society researchers found a 40 per cent lower death rate among men and women who used aspirin 16 or more times a month for at least one year. And the longer aspirin has been used, the lower the risk, they reported.

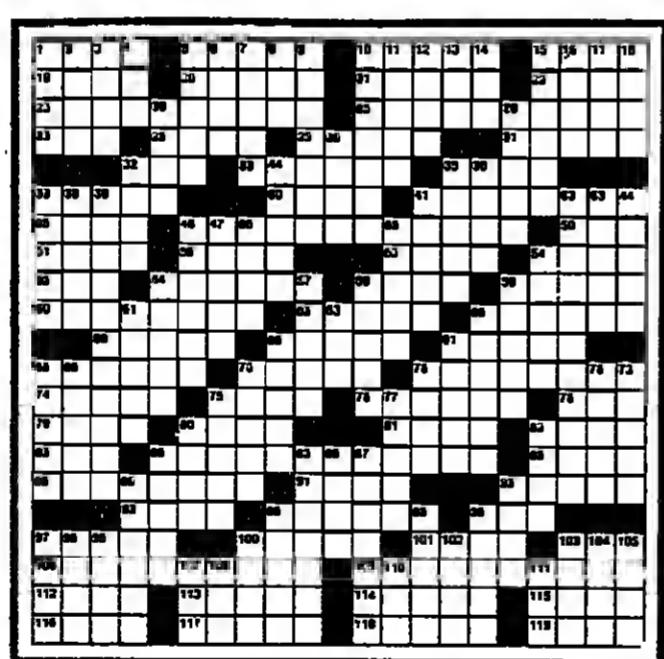
In a five-year study of 22,000 middle-aged doctors, those who took one ordinary aspirin tablet every other day suffered 40 per cent fewer heart attacks than those given a look-alike dummy medication. A similar placebo-controlled study is now under way in women.

It has already been noted in a six-year study of 90,000 nurses that those who said they took one to six aspirins a week suffered 25 per cent fewer heart attacks than nonaspirin users.

Aspirin had previously been found to be effective in treating heart attacks; when given within hours of an attack (the sooner the better), it was shown to reduce cardiovascular deaths by 23 per cent and reduce deaths by 25 per cent. And when taken regularly by heart attack patients, it reduced cardiovascular deaths by 23 per cent and reduced the risk of a second nonfatal attack as well as nonfatal strokes by nearly 50 per cent.

Based on these findings, experts have urged that a supply of aspirin be kept wherever a heart attack vic-

WEEKEND CROSSWORD



Last Week's Cryptogram

- Recycling of stale air in fuel-efficient buildings is being blamed for many cases of asthma.
- Young yogi was dieting on only egg yolks and yogurt when he died in New York.
- As flashy circus parade took a circuitous trip around the big city streets, monkeys lit up faces.
- Do we have any TV programs which are more idiotic than happy game shows?

CRYPTOGRAMS

- ESUM LJDQ EPUUUPV JAQPM ISSM CVWPDM CSV WMPDREWCEJEWSD LPCSVP EJAKWDI KWA EKEPEQ. —By Earl Ireland
- E QALT EKART AR E GEOMTRICK ECOMY TUEY SEL KTY E RYT IQ TUALDE KYOEADUY. —By Barbara J. Engs
- PML CMOZP TROO YFLPL UNTL COMSLAP SLOOMS GEPNLIF. WBY MYFLAP TROO YFLI WORTZ-LBLG PHPRUP. —By Ed Huddleston
- LOAFING OLAFING DJFYAB. JG OJOL, JLC CLGINLAGNPU MYFF NPMNBU HNDING PJ CI CLUB. —By Frank N. Stein



Thoughts for this week

The essence of taste is suitability. Divest the word of its prim and priggish implications, and see how it expresses the mysterious demand of the eye and mind for symmetry, harmony and order — Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).

To have reason to get up in the morning, it is necessary to possess a guiding principle, a belief of some kind, a bumper sticker, if you will — Judith Guest, American author (1936-).

There may be peace without joy, and joy without peace, but the two combined make happiness — John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, Scottish author (1875-1940).

Wisdom is divided into two parts, (a) having a great deal to say, and yet not saying it —Anonymous.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

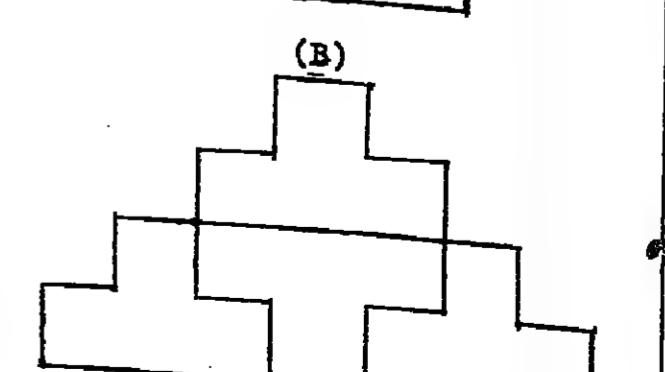
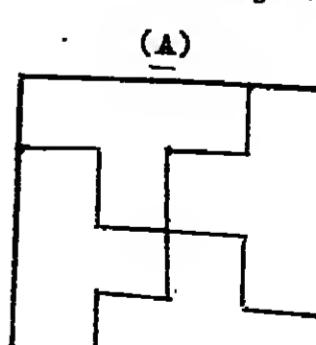
- Charles Dickens
- Fireworks
- A bicycle. The penny-farthing had one large wheel in front and a small wheel behind.
- Andrew Barton Paterson who wrote Waltzing Matilda. Other ballads he wrote are The Man From the Snowy River and Clancy Of The Overflow.
- John Bull.
- Birds.

★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

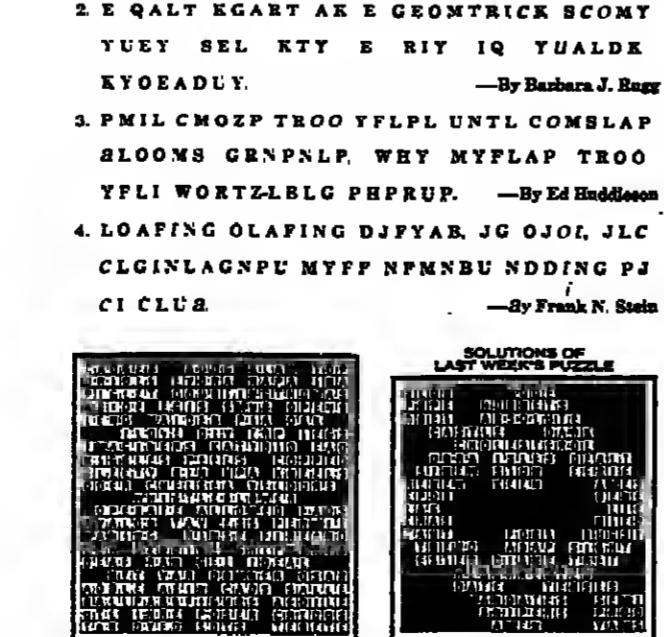
(A) *Heunck, cHestnut — pinE — elM — mapLe — willow — hiCkory — oak*

(B) *The solution is shown in the diagram below:*



Don Johnson

nd — 100
2 — carabiner
3 — carabiner
4 — carabiner
5 — carabiner
6 — carabiner
7 — carabiner
8 — carabiner
9 — carabiner
10 — carabiner
11 — carabiner
12 — Athlete group
13 — Neck hair
14 — Blunt
15 — Blunt
16 — Blunt
17 — Blunt
18 — Blunt
19 — Player for
money
20 — Forest cars
21 — Blunt
22 — Blunt
23 — Blunt
24 — Blunt
25 — Blunt
26 — wrongdoer
27 — Hong China
28 — Protective wall



Created equal?

By Richard Harwood

JOURNALISTS have trouble defining the commodity we call news.

Sometimes we'll say, "It's what we (editors) say it is." Others are prone to quote former Supreme Court justice Potter Stewart's definition of pornography: "I can't define it, but I know it when I see it."

There is confusion as well over the elementary question of who is or isn't a journalist. Are Barbara Walters, Geraldo and Bob Woodward in the same line of work? Is Diane Sawyer, a former Miss Teenage America, paid \$5 million to \$7 million a year by ABC News because she is a great reporter, or because she is an attractive personality with a gift for gab?

The ethics of "checkbox journalism" is a factor in this disagreement, but the real questions have to do with definitions.

Deciding What's News, a study of American journalism, tells us that "news," as reflected in the networks and news magazines, is a very limited concept. These media, as well as our leading newspapers, believe that news is primarily accounts of what political and cultural celebrities say and do — presidents, presidential candidates, members of Congress and other federal and state officials.

Between 70 per cent to 85 per cent of all "news" stories involve these elites. Ordinary people — the unknowns who are not rich or powerful but who include the vast majority of Americans — get short shrift. They make the news when they are involved in protests, strikes and riots or assume the role of "victims," criminals and moral deviants.

More than half of all "news" stories are generated by press released and staged events, such as press conferences, "government decisions, proposals and ceremonies" or by "government conflicts and disagreements," personnel decisions and "crimes, scandals and investigations."

The result is that "ordinary people never come into the news except as statistics. How ordinary people work, what they do outside working hours, in their families, churches, clubs and other organisations, and how they relate to govern-

ment and public agencies hardly ever makes the news."

So domestic "news" for the American media, is "about affluent people (both black and white) almost by definition, since the main actors in the news are public officials, whose incomes are in the top 1 to 5 per cent of the income distribution."

Foreign news reflects these biases and is highly ethnocentric, dealing with "stories thought relevant to Americans or American interests; with the same themes and topics as domestic news or, when the topics are distinctive, with interpretations that apply American values."

This is the "hard news" to which established newsmen refer and that preoccupies all of the "mainstream" media — the networks, the news magazines and the national or semi-national newspapers.

The preoccupation of the despised TV "news magazines" is with "celebrities," gross deviants such as Jeffrey Dahmer and other aberrational characters, "child abusers" et al. Diane Sawyer's latest scoop was an interview with Charles Manson and a couple of his murderous followers.

The lines between "hard news" and TV magazine productions is thus "blurred" as CBS News co-anchor and managing editor Dan Rather notes, since all the mainstream media dip into both pools of what we call "news" — sensational on the one hand, and the agenda of the League of Women Voters on the other.

We go to the "mainstream" media despite the "commercialism" of "get the ratings or die." But, in fact, we are all in the same boat. We need ratings, circulation gains and the advertising they generate to survive as profitable enterprises.

"We mix entertainment with "hard news" because "hard news" overwhelmingly dominates by political and economic elites, is not especially salable to the masses whose lives and interests are systematically ignored. They don't fit standard definitions of "news."

The writer is a former ombudsman of The Washington Post. The article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

By Francis Ghiles

THE GROUPE Islamique Arme (GIA), the most radical of the religious fundamentalist groups which, since the electoral process was interrupted two years ago, has been battling with the Algerian army and security forces, stepped up its pressure on Feb. 17 when it enjoined the country's 17,000 tax officials to stop collecting taxes or risk death. The GIA's message to senior tax officials insisted that Islam did not allow the levying of taxes except the Islamic zakat. The state tax office closed their doors to the public as a result.

Parallel developments have seen the GIA force butchers to sell meat at a third of the normal price, thus forcing a number of shops in Algiers to close. Private bus companies have been ordered to segregate men and women passengers. And in many villages near Blida, French newspapers and smoking are banned, and the veil for women is all but obligatory.

The more radical Islamic factions have been waging a well orchestrated campaign against the state since January 1992. Their first targets were members of the families of security forces personnel, often policemen who were not involved in the repression being carried out by special units. Intellectuals who were outspoken in their criticism of the idea of an Islamic state followed, even when, like writer Tahar Djoua, they were outspoken critics of the practices of the Algerian state.

Rachid Mimouni, one of the more outspoken critics of fundamentalist ideas who has recently sought refuge in Morocco after his daughter received death threats, has pointed out that fundamentalist pamphlets state point-blank that "those who criticise us with their pen must die by the sword." The only time he succeeded in having a debate on radio with a radical Islamic "intellectual," his interlocutor called, on three occasions during the broadcast, for Mimouni to be murdered. The intellectuals are on the front line. That thousands of them have been forced to flee Algeria since 1992 represents a major victory for the more radical Islamic groups. That "such intolerance mirrors the intolerance so long displayed by the Algerian state and the party which, from independence in 1962 until the riots of October 1988, held a monopoly of power, is of little consolation.

The Algerian population and, more recently foreign residents, are hostage to an ever more violent confrontation which is degenerating into what can only be called civil war. More than 3,500 Algerians have lost their lives over the past 25 months (many more according to some sources), and 30 foreigners have also died. Foreign nationals have regrouped in Algiers, Oran and Annaba and, in the case of the oil companies, moved to the comparative safety of the Sahara. No one really knows what goes on in the many small towns and villages of Africa's second largest country. Although Ramadan has brought cars and people out onto the streets of Algiers, most Algerians and those foreign diplomats who remain at their posts normally lock their front doors at dusk only to emerge the next morning.

Fear and bewilderment are written on every face, not least those of young policemen and soldiers — they are caught in a confrontation which they have not sought and the sheer savagery of both sides fills many with shame.

The writer is a former ombudsman of The Washington Post. The article is reprinted from the Washington Post.



Algerian soldiers man a checkpoint in Algiers (File photo)

Can Algeria be saved from the dinosaurs?

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The determination to fight on remains — best expressed by the prime minister, Redha Malek, once his country's ambassador in Washington where he played a key role in helping secure the release of U.S. diplomats held hostage in Tehran. He is that rare man in the Algerian elite who, two years ago, questioned some of the beliefs he had held before in a book published in Algiers. He insists that he is open to dialogue but not with "terrorists." "Terrorism must be liquidated, it has crossed the threshold of barbarity."

The new head of state, General Zeroual, is like the prime minister, a man of uncontested personal integrity, a senior officer who, as military commander of the city of Constantine, refused orders from the presidency to shoot at the crowds of demonstrators in October 1988. In his first address to the Algerian people in early February, he acknowledged their desire for "radical change." Security measures alone would be powerless to solve the deep political, economic and cultural crisis which has engulfed

the country.

Yet Zeroual and other senior officers face a cruel dilemma. How do they explain the lack of support the army lent to the bold economic and political reforms implemented by Mouloud Hamrouche between 1989 and 1991? How do they explain the backing they gave his two successors, Sid Ahmad Ghazali and Belaid Abdessalam, who between them tore up the agreement reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June 1991, and reversed economic reforms which had done away with the state monopoly on foreign trade, cut back state subsidies, devalued the dinar, opened up the country to foreign investment, handed back land expropriated in the early 1970s to its former owners and allowed the press a measure of freedom equalled in few places in the Arab world.

Senior Algerian officials carry on making fools of themselves in a manner which defies belief. Two weeks ago, the director of the treasury, Baba Ahmad, solemnly announced that

country's decision to negotiate with the IMF had been taken "freely" — even illiterate Algerians know this to be the exact opposite of the truth in a year when servicing the foreign debt of \$25bn will absorb the country's entire oil and gas income. Many Algerians noted their minister of the economy's declaration to the Washington Post that Algeria would only accept a form of IMF "medicine" "defined in such a way that it does not bring about any kind of social unrest". In 1991, Benhachouch was vitriolic in attacking the agreement Hamrouche signed with the IMF.

Meanwhile, Algerians face all the disadvantages of devaluation and belt-tightening and none of the advantages. The price of onions has nearly trebled since last December, that of coffee, when it can be found, has doubled, sugar has gone up 50 per cent, and 94 per cent of last year's 118bn dinar budget deficit is accounted for by subsidies to loss-making state companies. Privately sold goods such as car batteries and light bulbs are cheaper

and of higher quality than those sold in state shops. Algeria's economic managers have succeeded over the last three years in accumulating all the adverse effects of an economic readjustment programme and none of its benefits. That is the nature of the Algerian mind. Which makes one senior official observer note that his country is coming to look like Jurassic Park — a collection of dinosaurs. Such a comment is however, unfair to many officials, people of high personal integrity. Yet, collectively, the *nomenklatura* has proved quite incapable of meeting the challenge.

Western governments today despair of Algeria's incapacity to launch bold economic reforms. They will not be happy to see radical Muslim groups share in or take over power.

They do not disagree with Prime Minister Malek when he says that Algeria is "bearing the cost of maintaining stability in North Africa." But they are suffering from what one observer called "metal fatigue".

Middle East International

Peres: Some steps possible

(Continued from page 1)

ports said Mr. Arafat also wanted the curfew lifted from Hebron. The residents have been kept indoors since the massacre, sometimes allowed out for an hour or two per day to get supplies.

Palestinians stress that Mr. Arafat cannot return to the peace talks empty-handed, otherwise he would risk losing the local constituency needed to allow him to govern effectively once autonomy starts.

Major General Amnon Shachar, the army's deputy chief of staff and top negotiator, told Hebron leaders Tuesday that the city's turn would come for autonomy after self-rule is implemented in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, Israel radio reported.

In a PLO attempt to show that it was not intransigent, four top leaders of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction from the Gaza Strip accepted an unprecedented invitation and met with Labour Party legislators at Israel's parliament.

The head of the PLO cannot, after this incident, continue down the same path under the same conditions," Hisham Abdul Razik, head of the PLO in Ramallah, told the legislators in the fluent Hebrew he learned during two decades in Israeli jails.

"Security is a two-way street," he said. Asked about the specific suggestion that PLO police be allowed to operate in Hebron, he said security for Jews required attention as much as security for Palestinians.

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The other two Palestinians, Hisham Dasuki and Diab Lough, also have served time in Israeli jails. The four invited the Labour Party members to visit them in Gaza.

Legislator Dalia Itzik of the

Palestinians were invited because the faction wanted "to hear from people on the ground."

"Even though there are between us both misunderstandings and disagreements, it is important that we talk about them directly," she added.

The Palestinian said the settlements had to go, especially those in the occupied Gaza Strip.

"Settlements and peace are impossible in the territories," said Mr. Dasuki.

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"Settlements and peace are impossible in the territories," said Mr. Dasuki.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Rabin left open the possibility of eventually moving Jewish settlers from the occupied West Bank town of Hebron as part of a broader peace agreement.

In a recorded interview to be broadcast Wednesday night, Mr. Rabin was asked whether he was ready to order out the Jewish settlers to help meet Palestinian security concerns.

"Not at this stage," he said on the Public Broadcasting Service programme "Charlie Rose."

"I'm not saying what will happen once we'll have a permanent solution," he said.

He added that "from a municipal point of view," Hebron was populated by about 100,000 Palestinians and 41 Israelis.

"I believe the figures speak for themselves," he said, without elaborating. Mr. Rabin was interviewed late Tuesday night, shortly after he vowed not to compromise Israel's security as he seeks to revive stalled Mideast peace talks (see page 2).

Mr. Clinton offered U.S. help to Israel and Syria and deplored the breakdown in Mideast talks on all fronts.

"The events of the past several weeks have demonstrated the risk in this great undertaking," he said.

After three weeks of tortuous negotiations, the Security Council has decided to vote Friday on a disputed resolution condemning the massacre.

At the urging of the PLO, non-aligned members of the 15-nation Security Council have come close at least twice to pushing through a vote on the resolution. But the United States implied it would veto the resolution if it came up prematurely, and the other Security Council members backed off.

With U.S. consent, the Security Council finally agreed Tuesday to vote on the resolution at 1630 GMT Friday.

Right-wing legislators attacked their counterparts. The Tsomet party issued a statement saying bringing a terrorist to the cradle of Israeli democracy "is a disgrace both to the house and to those who invited him from the Labour Party."

Mr. Razik spent 20 years in jail for trying to blow up an Israeli bus in the 1970s, but was released last December after a personal appeal from Mr. Arafat. Abu Ziadah served 12 years for shooting suspected collaborators and was released last April.

Clinton, Rabin want talks resumed

(Continued from page 1)

peace process from the impasse reached after this savage slaughter," WAFA said.

Mr. Arafat also denounced what the agency called Israeli manoeuvres to escape implementation of the self-rule rule.

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Probe finds troops' role in bloodbath

(Continued from page 1)

runs Islamic affairs in the occupied territories.

The five-member Israeli panel called the names of the five, the only witnesses scheduled to appear at the morning session which was televised.

When they did not show up, the commission officially noted their absence and adjourned the morning session.

It was unclear whether the commission would seek a court order forcing the five to testify or face contempt charges.

"There was a decision by the High Supreme (Islamic) Council last week... that there is no cooperation between the Waqf and the Israeli committee," said Adnan Husseini, head of the Waqf in the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Husseini, speaking on army radio

Profits of U.S. banks soar to record \$43.4b in 1993

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's commercial banks earned a record \$43.4 billion last year, far surpassing the old record, and a top regulator said the industry's prosperity should continue this year.

"It's very difficult to anticipate another record year...but I think we'll see earnings remain very solid," said Andrew Hove, acting chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC).

The FDIC said Tuesday that 1993 earnings marked a 36 per cent improvement over the previous record of \$32 billion, set in 1992, which was a 79 per cent increase over the \$17.9 billion earned in 1991.

In the fourth quarter, earnings totalled \$11.1 billion, just

shy of the \$11.5 billion record set in the third quarter.

Analysts said banks could anticipate another good year in 1994 but in the long term, face stiff competition from mutual funds and other non-banks.

"They're eating the lunch of lots of banks, stealing their depositors...and stealing their loan customers with better rates and better service and more interesting products," said David Cates, chairman of Ferguson and Co., a consulting firm.

But 1993 was an extraordinary year for banks by almost any measure. Ninety-five per cent of all banks reported profits, the highest share since 1980, and two of every three

banks improved over 1992.

Return on assets, a standard measure of profitability, hit 1.21 per cent, topping one per cent for the first time since the FDIC began operating in 1934.

Loan losses totalled \$17.5 billion, the lowest in six years. The industry's capital cushion exceeded eight per cent of assets for the first time since 1993.

The number of failures, 42, was the lowest since 1982. No banks have failed so far this year. The number of loans declined from 787 with \$488 billion in assets at the end of 1992, to 426 with \$242 billion in assets at the end of 1993.

Commercial and industrial loans rose 0.5 per cent to \$539 billion, the first increase in four years.

The FDIC also reported that the nation's 2,264 savings and loans and savings banks earned \$1.8 billion in the fourth quarter, bringing full-year profits to a record \$7 billion in 1993, up from \$6.7 billion in 1992.

Analysts attributed banks' performance to the growing

economy and to the wide spread between short-term interest rates on deposits and long-term rates on loans.

The number of commercial banks at the end of the year, 10,957, was the lowest since the creation of the FDIC. However, assets held by the industry, \$3.7 trillion, increased 5.7 per cent over a year earlier.

Commercial and industrial loans rose 0.5 per cent to \$539 billion, the first increase in four years.

"We recommend that Norway seize this historic opportunity to take part in political cooperation on our continent, together with our Nordic neighbours," Ms. Brundtland said.

The EU agreed to take on Norway as a member after late-night talks Wednesday. Finland and Sweden, as well as Austria, had already agreed terms of membership, extending the EU high into the Arctic and giving it a border with Russia.

"This accord is worse than I feared when we began to negotiate," said Einar Hespe, head of the Norwegian Fishermen's Association. "We've lost on all points."

He said Norway would give fish quotas to Spain under the deal and that it would lose control over fisheries in its northern waters — two concessions the Oslo government had pledged it would never make.

The Norwegian Farmers' Union also condemned the accord, saying Norway will be flooded by cheap food imports while Norwegian farmers, struggling with a harsh climate stretching far into the Arctic, will be driven out of business.

Mr. Brundtland disagreed. "Understanding has been shown for our vital needs, and

Oslo hails EU deal; opponents cry sell-out

OSLO (R) — Norway's Labour government welcomed a deal on European Union (EU) membership Wednesday but powerful opposition groups including fishermen and farmers denounced it as a sell-out.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland announced Norway would hold a referendum on the deal — hoping to reverse polls showing that most Norwegians are opposed and that many fear membership will mean giving up sovereignty.

"This will be a fight on whether Norway will continue to be an independent nation or whether we will bind ourselves to a union," she said.

Sovereignty is a sensitive issue in Norway, which won independence from Sweden in 1905 and was occupied by the Nazis in World War II. Since saying "no" in 1972, Norway has grown rich, helped by surging output of North Sea Oil.

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Mr. Brundtland disagreed. "Understanding has been shown for our vital needs, and

with regard to control over our natural resources, and we have also achieved good solutions for agriculture and regional policy," she said.

She said the deal would help ensure jobs, allow Norway to maintain its generous welfare system and let it cooperate in common challenges including peace and the environment.

A poll this month in the daily *Dagblader* showed that just 23 per cent of Norwegians

favoured membership, 42 per cent opposed it and 34 per cent were undecided.

Some polls, however, show Norwegians might vote "yes" if Finland and Sweden accepted membership first.

Foreign Minister Bjoren Tore Godal said a date for a referendum had not yet been discussed, but noted that it took six or seven months to organise in 1972 once a deal was ready.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 17, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson; Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good morning to improve public relations in your line of endeavour, and to take advantage of opportunities coming your way. Reach out to help an associate that seems to be floundering. Be wise.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Being with friends and improving the association is fine today. Take pains to handle routine tasks in an efficient manner.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Show appreciation to those who have power over our affairs and gain further goodwill. Use modern methods to improve your work and be a success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) See what you can do about enlarging your vision so that you can advance in your line of endeavour and be wise to any method which will help get it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take no risks with your health at this time. Handle responsibilities more efficiently and they become easier for you to get them done.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 19) Study your financial position and then confer with experts in order to move it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to communicate well with associates and can advance in career matters. Sidestep a troublemaker and you will be successful.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 18, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid whatever confusion is about you this morning as the Gemini Moon squares Saturn and Mars and expand your energies on the logical plane of your main interests. Obtain facts and make the effort to make them happen.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) Study your financial position and then confer with experts in order to move it.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 19) Use tact with others and they soon will give you the favours you desire. The evening is fine for social pleasures with the one you are fond of.

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SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more considerate of the needs of family members and establish more harmony at home. Avoid one who gossips too much about everything.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Discuss your views with associates and improve regular routines. Plan how to gain your most cherished aims and make the effort to make them happen.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) Study your financial position and then confer with experts in order to move it.

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LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have to be more sensible where practical matters are concerned to gain your aims at this time. Be poised to any situation which could come up.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Any situations that arise today should be considered from a standpoint of how they will affect you and family members which are around you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Attend to duties that must be done early in the day so you'll have time for social activities and be cheerful to those around you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You need to apply yourself more now to gain your cherished wishes. Sidestep one who likes to impose on you or someone will be hurt.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 19) Use good common sense today, especially in the face of a possible emergency. Also, be sure to show thoughtfulness for others.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Carry through your original plans even though you may be limited in some way. Use diplomacy in your business dealings so that things come your way.

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 17-18, 1994 7

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
HOLDING BANK CENTER		JORDAN - SWEDEN ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 16/03/1994				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PRIOR. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE CHANGES	PERCENTAGE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	354,520	186,000	186,000	186,000	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN AGRICULTURE BANK	154,950	13,520	13,520	13,520	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	773,143	2,390	2,460	2,460	0.000	0.00%
THE HOLDING BANK	151,120	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK	31,087	6,200	6,200	6,200	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	74,700	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN FINANCIAL HOLDING	19,657	4,470	4,520	4,520	0.000	0.00%
BRITISH BANK FOR TRADING & INVESTMENT	8,382	9,320	9,320	9,320	0.000	0.00%
ARMON BANK FOR INVESTMENT	75,069	4,960	4,960	4,960	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK	70,283	1,270	1,270	1,270	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN FINANCIAL INVESTMENT BANK	97,828	2,640	2,640	2,640	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN FINANCIAL INSURANCE	14,581	2,620	2,620	2,620	0.000	0.00%
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	12,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	0.000	0.00%
ARAB ELECTRICAL POWER	48,075	2,350	2,350	2,350	0.000	0.00%
ARAB TELECOM	12,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	47,717	2,540	2,540	2,540	0.000	0.00%
ARAB INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS	150,613	4,740	4,740	4,740	0.000	0.00%
MEGASTATE INDUSTRIES	190	0.970	0.950	0.950	0.000	0.00%
PEST CONTROL EQUIPMENT LTD	28,383	1,270	1,270	1,270	0.000	0.00%
JOHNSON HOTEL, RESTAURANT & MAINTENANCE	28,383	1,270	1,270	1,270	0.000	0.00%
ARAB INVEST FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1,213	1,700	1,750	1,750	0.000	0.00%
ATTACHEKA COAST, HANDELL MANUFACTURING	132,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	9,475	2,940	2,940	2,940	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL REFINERY	10,395	2,940	2,940	2,940	0.000	0.00%
THE INDUSTRIAL GROUP OF AGRICULTURE	2,460	7,170	7,050	7,050	0.000	0.00%
THE INDUSTRIAL GROUP OF FISHERIES	208,880	7,920	8,000	8,000	0.000	0.00%
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	12,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.000	0.00%
JOHNSON INDUSTRIES	12,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN DAIRY	12,012	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.000	0.00%
THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	22,522	4,430	4,430	4,430	0.000	0.00%
ARMANDO TESTA S.p.A. INDUSTRIES	12,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.000	0.00%
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	4,000	3,010	3,040	3,040	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	176,482	18,000	18,050	18,050	0.000	0.00%
DAN AL DAIRY DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	7,224	2,240	2,240	2,240	0.000	0.00%
ARAB ALUMINUM & METALLURICAL TRADE	1,213	1,700	1,750	1,750	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	20,435	0,590	0,610	0,620	0.000	0.00%
NETTIE CO. LTD.	10,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.000	0.00%
INTERIMOLAE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	6,260	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.000	0.00%
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	4,240	7,870	7,600	7,600	0.000	0.00%
JORDAN PLASTIC CONSERVES INDUSTRY	19,120	4,460	4,460	4,460	0.000	0.00%
JOHNSON INDUSTRIES	17,520	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.000	0.00%
JOHNSON INDUSTRIES	14,720	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.000	0.00%
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	4,952	3,420	2,420	2,420	0.000	0.00%
JOHNSON INDUSTRIES FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	1,190	1,260	1,190	1,190	0.000	0.00%
KAMTAH INVESTMENT	1,190	1,260	1,190	1,190	0.000	0.00%
UNIVERSAL INDUSTRIES	109,884	8,000	8,100	8,000	0.000	0.00%
CRADIS TOTAL	8,913,721					
SO. OF TRADED NAMES IN PARALLEL MARKET	667,984					
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	203,931					

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	New York Close 16/3/94	Tokyo Close 16/3/94
Sterling Pound	1,4910	1,4910				
Deutsche Mark	1,6960	1,6967				
Swiss Franc	1,4450	1,4400				
French Franc	5,7700	5,7675**				
Japanese Yen	106.05	105.83				
European Currency Unit	1,1385	1,1385**				

TDI Pre HTU
London Update at 10:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 16/3/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	16,5250	9,5625	3,8750	4,3750
Sterling Pound	ZC 4,9375	4,9375	5,0000	
Deutsche Mark	5,6675	5,6625	5,3750	5,2500
Swiss Franc	5,8750	3,7500	3,6875	3,6250
French Franc	6,0625	6,0000	5,8125	5,6675
Japanese Yen	2,0000	8,1250	8,1250	2,1875
European Currency Unit	6,2500	6,1000	5,9700	5,8500

Interest rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

PRECIOUS METALS Date: 16/3/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	387.15	7.50	Silver	5.46	0.120

*24 karat

GENERAL BANK OF JORDAN EXCHANGE RATE BULLETIN Date: 16/3/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7000	0.7020
Sterling Pound	1.0422	1.0474
Deutsche Mark	0.4120	0.4141
Swiss Franc	0.4844	0.4868
French Franc	0.1212	0.1215
Japanese Yen	0.6600	0.6633
Dutch Guilder	0.3668	0.3686
Swedish Krona	4.0000	4.0000
Italian Lira	0.0418	0.0420
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies Date: 16/3/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1,8340	1,8530
Lebanese Lira	0.040465	0.041635
Saudi Riyal	0.1863	0.1872
Kuwaiti Dinar	2,3300	2,3550
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1910
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1,7850	1,8100
UAE Dirham	0.1900	0.1910
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3185
Cypriot Pound	1	

Korean talks fail again

PANMUNJOM, Korea (R) — South and North Korea reported no progress again Wednesday in efforts to settle a bitter row over Pyongyang's suspected development of nuclear weapons, but they agreed to try again Saturday.

"There was no progress at all in today's talks. The two sides were not able to agree on any points," South Korean chief delegate Song Young-Dee told reporters at the end of a two-hour session at the border village of Panmunjom.

The two sides were only able to decide to meet again on Saturday. But analysis said there was little prospect of a breakthrough in view of bad-tempered exchanges in recent days between the two arch foes.

Wednesday's meeting, the fourth this month, was aimed at clearing obstacles to a proposed exchange of special envoy, as part of a regular dialogue on nuclear issues.

Southern officials said the two sides spent most of the session bickering over the north's demand that they issue a "joint statement" expressing the will to realize the envoy exchange before an agreement is signed.

Seoul rejected the call as a ploy to delay the exchange. "The problem is with North Korea's attitude. They are trying to delay the exchange," Mr. Sung said. North Korea keeps saying they want the exchange to be real, but it does not show in their actions."

South Korea and the United States made the envoy exchange a precondition for resuming talks between Seoul and Beijing on

Wednesday, which was now indefinitely postponed indefinitely because of lack of progress in the inter-Korean talks.

The first earlier rounds of talks in Panmunjom, which ended in tense Korean tension, while little headway was made, did not lead over the initial rounds for the exchange.

Seoul sees the exchange as an important step in resolving the nuclear row and improving ties between the two countries, still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean conflict.

North Korea threatened Tuesday to scrap the Geneva talks if Washington did not honour an agreement on resolving doubts over the North's nuclear programme.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, cited a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the North would be unable to attend the Geneva talks if the United States did not meet its obligations.

The United States, which has led international efforts to pressure Pyongyang into returning details of its nuclear programme, on Tuesday said U.S. experts had not gotten full cooperation when inspecting seven armed-upon nuclear sites over the past two weeks.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors left North Korea Tuesday after attempting to find out if North Korea was secretly diverting plutonium for a weapon programme it feared in Tokyo, Seoul and Washington.

The IAEA has not yet made a public report on the trip, but Western news reports said the team had found several broken IAEA seals on plutonium-producing equipment, leading them to conclude that there could be no guarantee that North Korea was not now building nuclear weapons.

The inspections, which IAEA sources, Japan and South Korea say, were hampered, were to determine if the Stalinist North was diverting plutonium for a nuclear weapons programme.

The United States sounded equally pessimistic about the Geneva talks, saying they would not go ahead unless unimpeded IAEA inspections were made of seven declared nuclear sites.

But North Korea said the inspections went smoothly.

Meanwhile, China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Wednesday Beijing had no intention to mediate in North Korea's intractable nuclear dispute with the United Nations or the United States.

"China is not playing a role in the mediation. Nor is China involved in such a role."

A second news conference held by Mr. Sung after new talks to break North Korea nuclear site ended in mutual recrimination.

Russian envoy presses Yugoslav shuttle diplomacy

SARAJEVO (R) — Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin pressed his shuttle diplomacy for peace in Bosnia in talks with Serb leaders Wednesday as U.N. requests for passage of relief aid across Serb siege lines were rebuffed once again.

Mr. Churkin flew unexpectedly into Belgrade from the Croatian capital of Zagreb on the latest leg of a diplomatic mission that is being coordinated with the United States, which brokered a Croat-Muslim federation accord this month.

Official said Mr. Churkin, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy for former Yugoslavia, met leaders of the self-styled Serb Republic of Krajina and was scheduled to see Bosnian Serb chief Radovan Karadzic later in the day.

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A second news conference held by Mr. Sung after new talks to break North Korea nuclear site ended in mutual recrimination.

sovereign rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It should be obvious that the Serbs have the same sovereign rights."

Bosnian Serb leaders have sounded notes of moderation in recent days and Mr. Karadzic told Reuters in Belgrade Tuesday the Serbs were prepared to give up more than a fifth of the territory they control in Bosnia.

But such statements have contrasted with hardline attitudes on the ground which have enraged United Nations officials.

A spokesman for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Wednesday the Serbs had again turned down a U.N. request to allow passage of humanitarian supplies across Serb siege lines into the Muslim enclave of Maglaj.

"This is just another example of brinkmanship... where they (the Serbs) want to push the United Nations resolve to the last raw nerve, it appears to me," the UNHCR's Larry Hollingsworth said in a radio interview.

There have been threats from U.N. peace force commanders to clear the passage of aid convoys by force but no military action has been taken.

Asked about the use of force to get aid trucks into Maglaj, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said in Sarajevo: "No. We will do it through negotiations... We have been able to reach them (the people of Maglaj) through airdrops."

Maglaj has been cut off from overland aid supplies since October. A U.N. officer in Sarajevo said Wednesday that Serb leaders have expressed fears that the U.S.-brokered Croat-Muslim federation could turn into an anti-Serb alliance.

"What concerns me is how the rights of the Serbs... will be regarded and ensured in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Russian Television quoted Mr. Churkin as saying on arrival in Belgrade.

"It seems to me that it is of fundamental importance that Croats and Muslims possess

the predicament of the 19,000 civilians in the town was serious. "They are short of food. Most of all they are short of fuel. For the hospital, they are short of anaesthetics," he said.

Ms. Ogata and the U.N. commander in Bosnia, General Sir Michael Rose, toured frontline areas in Sarajevo Wednesday, including a strategic bridge that is scheduled to be opened soon under an accord between Muslims and Serbs.

The agreement on free movement in the capital, where a ceasefire has returned life to near-normal, was due to have been signed Wednesday but U.N. officials said the signing would be postponed to Thursday.

Although Maglaj has been cut off from road convoys, there have been airdrops almost every night and landing zones were marked for the first time Tuesday by a team of British soldiers helicopteried into the town.

Maglaj is one of the few active battle zones in Bosnia, where a month of intense international diplomatic activity has offered hope of peace after 23 months of ethnic war among Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

Leaders of the self-styled Serb Republic of Krajina agreed Wednesday to begin talks in Croatia next week on reducing tension over Krajina.

Agreement on the talks, the first between representatives of the two sides to be held in Croatia, was announced in Belgrade by Mr. Churkin.

Mr. Churkin told reporters the talks would begin at the Russian embassy in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, Tuesday.



Sarajevo jostle each other to board the first official tram to drive through the main avenue, nicknamed "Snipers' Alley" (AFP photo)

Mandela heads for Zulu strongholds

DURBAN, South Africa (Agencies) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela, fresh from a triumphant visit to Bophuthatswana, headed Wednesday into strife-torn Natal, powerbase of his main black rival Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Mr. Mandela was to have an election campaign meeting with leaders of Durban's important Indian community after visiting the scene of last week's horrific commuter train crash in which at least 64 people died.

More than 300 people were injured when packed carriages left the rails and smashed into an embankment in an isolated wooded valley about 20 kilometres west of Durban port.

Mandela is due to meet Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini Friday morning in Ulundi, capital of the KwaZulu black homeland, to seek peace in KwaZulu-Natal before South Africa's first all-race elections on April 26.

At least 16 people have died in the region since Tuesday morning, police and officials of Mr. Mandela's African National Congress said Wednesday.

Over 10,000 people have died in political violence in Natal since bitter feuding broke out nearly 10 years ago between supporters of the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Mr. Buthelezi, who has refused to take part in the elections.

Inkatha spokesman Ed Tillet echoed Mr.

Cronje's comments.

"One can already see tentative attempts being made at destabilising the KwaZulu government.

We anticipate that we are in for a rough ride in this province.

"The seed has already been planted that a similar scenario like in Bop could happen.

Any attempts of that nature would be met with fierce resistance.

People would be encouraged to seek the Zulu kingdom," he said.

"I think obviously the levels of tension would naturally exacerbate. It is not going to take very much to set in motion a very dangerous climate in KwaZulu/Natal," Mr. Tillet told Reuters.

He said Inkatha feared the ANC had plans to destabilise the KwaZulu government to ensure it collapsed like the government in nominally-independent Bophuthatswana.

South Africa took over Bophuthatswana at the weekend and two administrators have been appointed to run the homeland after its President Lucas Mangope, a strong opponent of the ANC, was deposed after violent demonstrations in the capital Mbatho and other towns.

Mr. Mandela received a tumultuous welcome from homeland residents when he visited Mbatho Tuesday.

Bophuthatswana's white former defence minister, Rwan Cronje, predicted Wednesday that other homeland governments could collapse in the same way under ANC pressure.

Inkatha's Tillet echoed Mr.

Famous 1934 picture of Nessie is a fake

LONDON (AP) — The Loch Ness monster pictured in a famous 1934 photo was just a toy submarine fitted with a fake sea-serpent head, a newspaper report said.

Loch Ness researcher Alastair Boyd and David Martin claim one of the conspirators in the hoax told them about it just before he died in November at the age of 90, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

The rally at Empangeni in northern Natal would promote peace in the region and also prove that the ANC had majority support among the country's nine million Zulus, the officials said.

Meanwhile, after months of wrangling and hesitation, South Africa was presented Tuesday with a flag to replace the banner associated with apartheid.

It is dominated by a green field at the centre shaped like a Y laid on its side. The field is surrounded by blocks of black, red and blue blocks, and set off by thin lines of gold and white.

Mr. Tillet was part of a豪族 hatched by his friend Marmande Wetherell, a filmmaker and self-styled big game hunter hired by the Daily Mail in 1933 to bunt Nessie. Mr.

Wetherell's son Ian and stepson Christian Spurling were also in on it. Mr. Boyd and Mr. Martin said Mr. Spurling, the last surviving conspirator, told them he made the model for the 1934 photograph at Mr. Wetherell's request, the newspaper said. Mr. Spurling, a skilled model maker, made the "monster" one foot (0.3 metres) high and 18 inches (0.45 metres) long, it said. But Mr. Wetherell was caught out in another Nessie hoax involving phoney monster footprints, so the photograph was given to Mr. Wilson to pass to the Daily Mail, the report said. The Daily Mail published the picture as a world exclusive.

The PLA can draw upon certain other budget items for funds, and is also increasingly making money for itself with industrial and commercial ventures ranging from hotels to motorcycle factories.

Mr. Qian said such concerns were unfounded, and the budget boost this year was simply intended to help the military cope with inflation and currency reforms that devalued the yuan by 33 per cent against the U.S. dollar.

"On a surface, it looks like an increase," Mr. Qian told a news conference. "But actual purchasing power has not really increased."

Diplomats say the published budget figures do not reflect accurately all of China's defence spending.

Mr. Qian defended this year's 22 per cent hike in China's military budget, saying Beijing still spends just a pitiful amount on defence compared with other countries.

The People's Liberation Army, under a budget unveiled at the current session of parliament, will get 52.04 billion yuan (\$5.9 billion) this year compared with 42.5 billion yuan (\$4.8 billion adjusted for currency reforms) last year.

China denounces Taiwan diplomatic drive

BEIJING (R) — China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Wednesday denounced a diplomatic drive mounted by rival Taiwan as against the interests of the entire Chinese people.

Mr. Qian, speaking at a news conference, said Beijing did not oppose economic links between Taiwan and other countries but could never countenance any sort of political cooperation.

Recent overseas trips by Taiwanese leaders including President Lee Teng-Hui were "holiday-making diplomacy" that cloaked efforts by Taipei to extract political concessions from other countries in return for economic gains, Mr. Qian said.

He attacked those responsible for the December 1991 agreement — Mr. Yeltsin and the leaders of Belarus and Ukraine — which dealt the death blow to the fragmenting superpower.

"Each of us must recognise his guilt — those who patched together the Belovezhskoye agreement those who ratified it, those who supported it at emotional rallies for sovereignty and those who simply kept silent."

Mr. Rutskoi, whose nationalist leanings have strengthened steadily over recent years, recalled the referendum held by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on March 17, 1991.

Some 58 per cent of the Soviet electorate voted to maintain a "renewed federation of equal sovereign republics", a wording criticised by opponents as nuclear. Some republics boycotted it.

But his statement, which verged at times on the evangelical, maintained the calls for calm. Mr. Rutskoi has issued since being freed from jail by a parliamentary amnesty last month.

The Russian president fared better: 50 per cent of the 1,494 adults interviewed in the United States correctly named Boris Yeltsin. The survey's margin of error was plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

U.S. media experts said they were not surprised by the apparent contradiction.

"Most Americans believe that they believe in a free press, but when it comes right down to it, they really don't," Paul McMasters, executive director of the Freedom Forum First Amendment Centre at Vanderbilt University, said in a telephone interview.

At least 36 per cent of French respondents believe in censorship, compared to 38 per cent in the U.K. and 28 per cent in Italy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brown smashes world 200m breaststroke record

BRISBANE, Australia (R) — Schoolgirl Rebecca Brown smashed the women's 200 metres breaststroke world record by more than half a second at the Australian swimming championships Wednesday. Brown's time of two minutes 24.76 seconds broke the previous record set by American Anita Nall by 0.59 seconds. The 16-year-old Brown was under world record pace at every turn of the 200 metres final and was never threatened by the other swimmers. Nall set her record at the U.S. Olympic trials in March 1992 and went on to take the bronze medal at the Barcelona Games. Brown, who came within 0.05 seconds of the world record at the Queensland championships in January, is Australia's first female world record holder since Tracey Wickham broke the 1500 metres freestyle mark in 1979.

Welsh manager resigns after only one match

CARDIFF (R) — John Toshack resigned as Welsh soccer manager Wednesday, after only one match in charge. Welsh Football Association (WFA) Chief Executive Alun Evans said Toshack would give his reasons at a news conference at London's Heathrow Airport Thursday. "He told me the reasons but I think it's only fair that he be allowed to make those public at his own press conference," said Evans. "I am leaving it up to Toshack to explain why he has decided to go." Toshack, who took the Wales job just 48 days ago, manages San Sebastian side Real Sociedad. Toshack's only match in charge for Wales ended in a 3-1 defeat by Norway in Cardiff last week when he was abused by sections of the crowd, some of whom called for a return of his predecessor Terry Yorath whose contract was not renewed by the WFA.

Germany remains on top of soccer poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Germany remained on top for the 11th consecutive week in the sprint soccer poll, a weekly ranking of the top 10 national teams as voted on by an international panel of soccer journalists, organisers said Tuesday. Germany received 34 of a possible 38 first-place votes in accumulating 369 points. Brazil, which earned one first-place vote, stayed in second place with 343 points. The Netherlands held on to third place, with 283 points, while Italy, with two first-place votes, was fourth with 256 points. The leaders were followed by Argentina, one with one first-place vote, with 199 points; Colombia, 191; Spain, 134, and Belgium 94. In the only change in the top 10, Cameroon edged ahead of Norway into ninth place with 53 points. Norway dropped to 10th with 51 points. Mexico just finished out of the top 10 with 47 points, followed by Sweden with 37.

Fry puts Birmingham squad up for sale

LONDON (R) — Barry Fry, manager of relegation threatened Birmingham City, put the entire 37-man squad of his first division side up for sale Tuesday. Fry has brought in 13 players since taking charge of the club in December but said he now has to reduce his wage bill. He circulated a list of 12 players available for transfer in January but that met with little response. "I have got to off-load. I can't even take a free transfer signing because we've got so many players on the staff," Fry said.

Prost not to return to Formula 1 racing

PARIS (AP) — Alain Prost, the four-time Formula One racing champion and winner of a record 51 Grand Prix events, confirmed Tuesday he will not return to auto racing. The future of the 39-year-old French racer, who announced his retirement last September, had been under intense scrutiny in France after he test drove for four days a McLaren-Peugeot in Portugal. "I will not race," Prost told the French television network TF1. "Actually I haven't changed my mind since last September," he said in an interview with the network in Paris. "The tryout with McLaren took place in a very honest way between two parties. It wasn't just to try out the car but also the spirit in which we could work together," he said. "I wanted to test myself, to know if I really wanted to get back into it. In the end, no."

Mansell 7-4 favourite to repeat Indy triumph

LONDON (AP) — British bookmaker Ladbrokes rates Nigel Mansell, a 7-4 shot to repeat his 1993 Indy car auto racing triumph in 1994. "Mansell has proven his ability as a top class driver whatever type of car he is driving," said Ladbrokes spokesman Ian Wassell. The British driver won the Formula One title the year before he switched to Indy car racing. Ladbrokes quotes Paul Tracy the 4-1 second favourite with Al Unser Jr 6-1, Emerson Fittipaldi 7-1 and Michael Andretti and Bobby Rahal both 8-1.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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AN ITALIAN COUNT

Both vulnerable. South deals. did not stop North from introducing hearts and North was full value for the raise to game.

West dutifully led a low club. East cashed that losing ace, then shifted to a spade. Dummy, the great Italian star Bruno Garozzo won in hand, found out the ace of trumps to complete the defensive book, won the spade return in hand and now was faced with the problem of bringing in the diamond suit without losing a trick to the queen.

If John or Jane Doe was at the helm of this hand, they would probably be engaged in a lot of heavenward gazing, some heavy sighing and then a guess. Garozzo did better.

After first drawing trumps and noting East's discard on the third round, Garozzo cashed the ace of spades, fetching another club from East. The count of the hand was now complete.

East had shown only four cards in the major suits and, since the lead had marked West with at least three clubs, no more than six clubs.

Therefore, East had to hold three or more diamonds and was a favorite to have the queen. So South cashed the king and ran the ten to land the game.



Koss owed gold medal to new skates

AMSTERDAM (R) — Norway's Johann Olav Koss owes at least one of the three Olympic speed skating gold medals he won in Lillehammer last month to the revolutionary skates he used, two Dutch scientists said Wednesday.

The scientists said "King" Koss would not have finished first in the 1,500-metre event if he had skated on regular blades as used by most of his rivals.

Gerrit Jan Van Ingen Schenau and Jos de Koning of Amsterdam's Free University said Koss' blades — developed by a Dutch manu-

facturer — had reduced frictional resistance by some 40 per cent.

The new blades, tested by the two researchers, gave the Norwegian a winning edge over Dutchman Rinze Ritsma who took the silver medal. They wrote in an article published in Dutch newspaper Trouw.

"Our estimates show that Koss would have won two gold medals even without the new blades but would have lost one to Ritsma in the 1,500 metres," they wrote.

Lowly Pistons upset Supersonics

SEATTLE (R) — The Detroit Pistons, the NBA's second-worst team, used a 9-1 closing run to upset the league-best Supersonics 89-87 in Seattle late Tuesday.

Terry Mills hit an 18-foot jumper with 43.4 seconds left to give the Pistons the victory.

Detroit (17-46) trailed 73-68 after the third quarter but outscored Seattle 21-14 in the fourth to win its fourth in five games and the Sonics' seven-game home winning streak.

Seattle (45-16) held an 86-80 lead with 2:25 to go but Lindsey Hunter scored five of the final 10 points. Hunter hit consecutive free throws and a minute later connected from 3-point range to give Detroit an 87-86 lead.

Sam Perkins made 1-of-2 free throws to tie the game 87-87 with 1:08 left. Mills then hit his game-winning shot to cap a 12-point, 11-rebound night. Perkins missed a 15-foot baseline jumper, as time expired, that would have tied the game.

Isiah Thomas led six Pistons in double figures with 20. Allan Houston added 10 of his 12 points in the second half.

Shawn Kemp scored 24 points and Kendall Gill and Perkins added 13 points each.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored one of his 41 points in the fourth quarter as the Rockets outscored the Portland Trail Blazers 28-12 in the period to take a 105-99 victory.

The Suns, who have won four straight, shot a blistering 90 per cent from the field in the third quarter (18-of-20).

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 28 points, including eight straight Heat points in the

fourth quarter, to spearhead a 101-94 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

In Los Angeles, Roo Harper scored 32 points to lift the Clippers to their season-high fourth straight victory, 108-105 over the Utah Jazz.

Karl Malone had 34 points and 14 rebounds for the Jazz, who had won 11 of their last 12 games.

At Minnesota, Stacey Kiog scored six of his 16 points in a 12-2 run to start the fourth quarter as the Timberwolves snapped an eight-game losing streak with a 96-87 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Isiah Rider scored 21 points for the Wolves.

At Golden State, Chris Gatling scored 11 of his 20 points in the first quarter as the Warriors opened a 15-point lead and cruised past the Washington Bullets 123-93.

Chris Webber added 37 points and 12 assists. Hubert Davis had 15 points and Charles Oakley got 15 points and 12 boards.

At Cleveland, Dan Majerle scored 15 of his 34 points in the third quarter as the Phoenix Suns built a 20-point lead and coasted to a 119-106 win over the injury-hit Cavaliers.

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Indian Cultural Gathering

The Indian community in Jordan is holding a cultural gathering on Friday, March 18. All Indians are invited to attend.

Venue: The Indian Embassy premises, the First Circle.

Time: Events start at 12 noon sharp

U.S. TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE

A taxpayer service specialist from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be at the American Embassy in Amman on March 30 to April 7 to assist U.S. taxpayers.

A special tax seminar will be conducted on Thursday March 31, and Sunday April 3, at 8:30 a.m. in the United States Information Service auditorium at the embassy. Anyone who is interested will be welcome to attend. No reservation is necessary.

Individual assistance will be provided by appointment on April 4 to 6. Each taxpayer is advised to have a copy of his or her last filed return and to have all papers well organised and scheduled to the extent possible when appearing for an appointment. Appointments may be made by calling 820-101, extension 2062.

Income tax forms and information booklets are now available in the consular section of the embassy.

Sanchez Vicario, Sabatini ousted from Lipton tourney

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP)

— Gabriela Sabatini and two-time defending champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario were eliminated in quarterfinal matches Tuesday at the Lipton championships.

The second-ranked Sanchez Vicario squandered five consecutive match points and lost 1-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 to Brenda Schulz of the Netherlands.

Sabatini, ranked fifth, was overwhelmed by 17-year-old American Lindsay Davenport 6-2, 6-1.

Swede Stefan Edberg became the first men's quarterfinalist by beating Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 7-6 (7-2), 6-1.

Davenport and Schulz both notched their biggest career wins. The upsets eliminate two rivals for top-ranked Steffi Graf, who won 29 consecutive matches.

Sanchez Vicario led Schulz 6-1 in the second-set tiebreaker, but the Dutchwoman won the next seven points to force a third set.

Schulz, who stands 6-foot-2 (1.88 metres), slammed 10 aces and won 36 points at the net to 10 for Sanchez Vicario.

The Spaniard converted only four of 13 break chances.

Schulz, ranked no. 32, had lost all five previous matches against Sanchez Vicario.

Davenport, ranked 13th, avenged a three-set loss to Sabatini at last year's U.S.

Buser wins Iditarod in record time

NOME, Alaska (R) — Martin Buser beat the record by more than two hours Tuesday night when he crossed the finish line on snowplowed front street to win the 1,160-mile (1,870-kilometre) Iditarod trail sled dog race.

His official elapsed time of 10 days, 13 hours, two minutes and 39 seconds for the race from Anchorage to this Bering Sea town broke 1993 champion Jeff King's race record by 2½ hours.

Buser and his dogs were greeted by hundreds of cheering fans. Some of them standing on parked cars and building roofs. They turned out despite the minus-9-degree Fahrenheit (-23-C) weather.

"The makings of a record especially come in different parts," Buser told local radio station KNOM. "There's got to be good trail conditions and there's got to be good competition and, of course, you've got to have a good team."

Buser's closest competitor was 1983 champion Rick MacKey, about four hours behind on the route to Nome, according to race reports.

"At the finish," Buser was greeted by his wife and his two sons. He was also greeted by his mother, who travelled here from Switzerland, and whom

tenberg of Australia 7-6 (7-3), 6-1; and no. 5 Jim Courier beat Andrei Cherkasov of Russia 6-3, 7-5.

Top ranked Steffi Graf of Germany extended her winning streak to 29 consecutive matches and 51 sets by beating Amy Prizer 6-3, 6-0, Sanchez Vicario swept Lori McNeil 6-2, 6-1.

Agassi's win was almost that lopsided, as he beat Becker for the seventh straight time. No other player has given the German so much trouble.

"Andre was really in his zone and couldn't miss a ball," Becker said. "He was hitting as hard as possible, and I served 115 MPH (184 kph) serves and he just put them back like nothing."

"I guess if he hears the name Becker, it just makes him play much better."

Agassi, seizing the momentum with a series of winners on his service return, won 10 consecutive points on his way to a quick 4-1 lead against Becker.

When Becker continued to struggle at the start of the second set, losing nine of the first 10 points, he handed his racket to a stunned Flaherty.

"I looked at him and he said, 'play the point,'" the ballgirl said. "We're not supposed to talk to the players, but Agassi signalled it was Ok, so I decided to play. I don't remember if I hit a forehand or a backhand, I was so nervous."

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The second is a ground floor consisting of two bedrooms, sitting and dining rooms, spacious kitchen, glassed-in veranda, separate entrance with small garden and garage. Each apartment has an independent central heating and telephone.

Location: Western Shmeisani, Abdul Halim Al Nimr St., near Bilal Mosque. Building No. 24.

Pls. call 685593 or 664256.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Photo Competition

Organised by

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

On the occasion of Arbor Day, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature announces a photo competition to feature nature in Jordan: Flowers, birds, trees or landscapes.

Conditions:

- Each participant should provide between five and 10 slide-photos, printed, along with the negatives.
- The size of the photo should not be smaller than 18 x 12 cm.
- Photos are either in colour or black and white.
- Last date for participation is 20/5/1994.
- Results, prizes and certificates of the winners will be announced at a reception, and an exhibition will be held on the occasion of the World Environment Day, Sunday, 5/6/1994.

6. The prizes:

Flight ticket from Royal Jordanian
Flight ticket from Middle East Airlines

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Son of Yemeni speaker escapes attack'

DUBAI (R) — The son of the speaker of the Yemeni parliament escaped an assassination attempt in which one of his bodyguards was wounded, a Saudi newspaper said on Wednesday. London-based Al Sharq Al Awsat said in a report from Sanaa that Sheikh Hussein, eldest son of Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar, was ambushed on Tuesday on his way to the capital from his tribe's heartland some 60 kilometres north of Sanaa. Officials and diplomats in the Yemeni capital, where offices remain closed for the Eid Al Fitr holiday, could not immediately confirm the report. Sheikh Abdullah is also leader of the Islamist Islah Party, a member of the three-party coalition government that has been paralysed since August by a row between the two main partners — parties loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his Vice President Ali Salem Al Beedi. Al Sharq Al Awsat said a three-car convoy in which Sheikh Hussein was travelling to Sanaa was ambushed by unknown armed men. Their attackers escaped. The newspaper said the attempt was unrelated to Yemen's political crisis but apparently linked to a dispute between Sheikh Ahmar's Hashid tribal confederation and the rival Bakil confederation.

Somali leaders plan conference

NAIROBI (AP) — A U.N. spokesman said Somali faction leaders will meet later this week in Nairobi to plan a conference on reducing the tensions in the southern city of Kismayo. Ambassador Lansana Kouyaté has been meeting individually with the faction leaders and is encouraged by "their willingness to put their differences behind them and look to the future," said U.N. spokesman George Bennett. He said details are still being worked out, but that the United Nations hopes the faction leaders will meet Thursday and Friday at the U.N. complex in Nairobi to set the agenda, venue and date for a conference in Kismayo. Faction leaders in Nairobi include Mohammad Farah Aideed, the main warlord in southern Mogadishu, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, General Aideed's main rival who controls northern Mogadishu; Mohammad Said Hirs, the warlord whose forces control Kismayo; and Omar Jess, an ally of Gen. Aideed's whose militia men were driven from Kismayo. Mr. Bennett said it was not yet clear which faction leaders would attend the meeting this week at the U.N. complex.

Guerrillas reject U.N. options for Sahara

PARIS (R) — Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence of Western Sahara reject two United Nations options for a settlement and have reservations about the third, the official Algerian news agency APS reported. The agency monitored in Paris quoted sources close to the guerrilla movement reacting to proposals made by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to the Security Council on Saturday. Dr. Ghali proposed three options to break a deadlock over a U.N. peace plan for the 18-year-long conflict in the former Spanish colony claimed by Morocco. APS said the Polisario rejected two options, either to hold a self-determination referendum at the end of this year regardless of the views of either side, or to drop the whole idea and withdraw most of the U.N. peacekeeping force. On the third option, to continue talks until the end of June to arrive at agreement on the question of who is eligible to vote in the referendum, APS said the Polisario expressed reservations because it favours Morocco.

Ruler of Bahrain to visit Syria

BAHRAIN (AP) — The emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, will pay an official visit to Syria on Sunday at the invitation of President Hafez Al Assad, it was announced Wednesday. Sheikh Isa will lead a ministerial delegation and will hold talks with Mr. Assad that will include the Middle East peace process "and means of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement," said the announcement carried by the official Gulf News Agency.

Fire kills 7 in German home for aliens

STUTTGART (R) — Seven people, including two children, were killed when a house occupied mainly by foreigners burst into flames early Wednesday, German police said. Seventeen people were injured, some of them in serious condition. German radio said many of the occupants were Pakistanis, but police were unable to confirm this. A police spokesman said the authorities did not rule out arson in the apartment house fire in the southern German city of Stuttgart and that the cause was being investigated. But he told reporters there was no indication it was set off by right-wing extremists, whose favourite firebomb targets are foreigners' homes and hostels for asylum-seekers.

Clinton to address French assembly in June

PARIS (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton was invited Wednesday to address the National Assembly when he visits France in June for celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the D-Day allied landings during World War II. Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin said Mr. Clinton would speak in parliament on June 7, the day after ceremonies in Normandy which he will attend with President François Mitterrand, Britain's Queen Elizabeth and six other heads of state and government.

Tiger kills South Africa TV journalist

LISBON (AP) — A tiger being transferred to South Africa free from its zoo cage in Angola's war-torn capital and handled by South African television cameraman to death, news reports said Wednesday. The cameraman, identified as Rick Lomber, was filming the transfer Tuesday of 29 animals from Luanda's zoo to South Africa. The tiger was among a number of animals that were drugged for transfer to a zoo in South Africa. Apparently, the drug did not take on the tiger who attacked. The Pan-African Association of Zoos sponsored Tuesday's airlift of the animals to Johannesburg and then on to eight South African zoos, the Portuguese news agency LUSA said. Due to Angola's continuing 18-year civil war, Luanda has barely enough food to keep its human population properly fed. Its zoo was neglected and the animals went for days without eating. LUSA said zoo guards killed the tiger immediately after the attack.

Shevardnadze undergoes drug test

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze voluntarily underwent a drug test on Wednesday, initiating a campaign to cleanse his government of illegal drug users. Mr. Shevardnadze said last month that many Georgian public servants take drugs and promised to fire those caught. "Government officials must be free of vices," he said. "I would volunteer to pass a drug test to start this campaign." He fulfilled his promise Wednesday, undergoing the test in the Georgian parliament building which houses his offices. Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister, has faced numerous problems since returning to his native Georgia in 1991, including continuing fighting in the secessionist region of Abkhazia and the virtual collapse of Georgia's economy. Georgia also has been beset by a sharp increase in the crime rate and drug trafficking.

Bomb shatters Nicosia mosque windows

NICOSIA (AP) — A bomb shattered the windows of a small disused mosque in the Greek Cypriot sector of Nicosia during the night, police announced Wednesday. The blast also broke windows in the shopping street where the mosque is located. There were no injuries. "It is not yet clear whether the bomb was directed against the mosque," said police spokesman Savvas Antoniades. He added the explosion might be the work of agents trying to create tension between the Christian Greek and Muslim Turkish Cypriot communities. This was the second blast against a mosque in the Greek Cypriot sector of the divided capital in less than a month.



FUNERAL: Thousands of mourners Wednesday attend the funeral of Algerian theatre director Abdell Qader Alouia, who was shot by unidentified gunmen on March 10. Alouia, 55, was flown to Paris after the attack but died in hospital four days later. His body was flown home Tuesday (AFP photo)

Russia may sign NATO partnership this month

BRUSSELS (R) — Russia has indicated to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) it may sign a key partnership deal on closer military links by the end of this month, a move that would reassure the West after increasingly sharp attacks from Moscow.

Alliance sources told Reuters on Wednesday NATO had received information through diplomatic channels that Russia could be ready to sign the "Partnership for Peace," which the alliance has offered to former Soviet republics and Eastern European states.

"The Russians have indicated they may join by the end of the month," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

No date has been set but Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev may come to NATO headquarters to sign the partnership deal, which provides for joint exercises, training and cooperation in areas such as defence planning.

Many Eastern European states such as Poland and Hungary, anxious to become full members of NATO, have joined the scheme since it was offered by alliance leaders to their former cold war enemies at a summit in January.

Moldova became the 12th country to sign on Wednesday.

But the absence of Russia — Europe's biggest military power — has worried NATO, particularly since Moscow has shown signs of moving away from reform, worried neighbouring states like the Baltics and criticised Western policy in areas like Bosnia.

Moscow has also attacked the partnership scheme, saying it did not take into account Russia's great power status and that it was little more than a news conference.

Mr. Grachev said the draft 1994 budget, approved in principle by the government earlier this month, provided for less than half of the army's needs and needed to be revised.

"If the situation with financing does not change, there could be no talk about not only reforming the army ... but about securing Russia's safety as well," he said.

This year's budget, which has yet to be approved by parliament, allocated the armed forces 37.1 trillion roubles (\$22 billion), less than half the 80 trillion roubles (\$47 billion) the Defence Ministry wants.

Mr. Grachev said that if the amount was not increased, the armed forces would be able to pay for only a quarter of the modern arms it had ordered from the military-industrial complex.

That meant many industrial giants would have to lay off millions of workers, fanning social tensions across the country.

Lack of money would also mean that social programmes would have to be cut. This would add to the miseries of thousands of servicemen, many of them already uneasy about the move from the relative comfort of Eastern Europe and Germany and some with nowhere to live in Russia.

"We cannot cut military expenditure endlessly — this threatens to damage combat ability and aggravate social problems in the armed forces," Mr. Grachev said.

The main planks of Russia's military reform are to set up mobile units instead of permanently based forces and to cut numbers. Mr. Grachev said the armed forces should be reduced from its current level of 2.3 million to 2.1 million this year and to 1.9 million next.

He confirmed that an earlier target of 1.5 million-strong army had been dropped as it proved too low when his analysts did proper calculations.

Mr. Grachev fiercely dismissed any suggestions that the army might step into politics and grab power.

"As long as I am defence minister, there will be no military dictatorship. We will adhere to the constitution," he said.

Knesset passes meat-ban bill, boosting Rabin's majority base

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's parliament banned importing non-kosher meat Wednesday, paving the way for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to regain a solid majority to back his peace policies.

After a marathon session, the Knesset voted 65-10 in the hill's third and final reading before dawn. The ultra-religious Shas Party had made passage of the bill a condition of returning to Mr. Rabin's coalition.

Mr. Rabin has led a minority government ever since he was sworn in last summer on an unrelated issue. But on Monday, Shas leader Aryeh Deri initiated a coalition agreement expanding Mr. Rabin's support in the 120-seat parliament from 56 to 62, pending ratification of the ban on non-kosher meat.

Butchers have said that meat prices would drop dramatically, some estimate by up to 30 per cent, if imported non-kosher meat had been allowed into the country.

The government had used its backing of five legislators from

Arab parties giving him a gross majority of one.

The frozen beef import law was vehemently opposed by Mr. Rabin's other coalition partner, the 12-seat Meretz Party, whose left-wing policies are staunchly against religious coercion.

The bill won support from the right-wing National Religious Party, even though it meant strengthening Mr. Rabin's hand since they could not ideologically oppose the bill.

Mr. Rabin has said he needs a "Jewish majority" to push through controversial policies in negotiations with the Palestinians and Syrians.

Butchers have said that meat prices would drop dramatically, some estimate by up to 30 per cent, if imported non-kosher meat had been allowed into the country.

The new law will not affect the raising of pork in Israel, and non-kosher meat packing plants will continue to operate.

The government had used its

monopoly in the past to prevent the import of non-kosher meat, meat that fails to meet Jewish ritual standards. But when Mr. Rabin announced plans to privatise the meat industry, Shas demanded that the unofficial ban be written into law.

Mr. Rabin pushed a ban through the parliament last summer, but it was thrown out by the supreme court as failing to meet the constitutional guarantee of free enterprise.

As a result, the government last week pushed through legislation altering constitutional law to say that free enterprise must conform to Israel's "democratic and Jewish character." This means the new ban will probably stand up to supreme court review.

The new law will not affect the raising of pork in Israel, and non-kosher meat packing plants will continue to operate.

The government had used its

Shipping to Iraq's Umm Qasr port picking up

BAHRAIN (AP) — Ship traffic through the Gulf to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr has accelerated to the rate of about one a week, carrying food and other goods allowed under U.N. rules, the U.S. Navy said Wednesday.

Shipping to Umm Qasr, Iraq's sole outlet to the Gulf, has gradually developed since November when Iraq first reopened the port after repairing war damage.

At the time, ships were sailing through to Iraq at the rate of about once a month compared to the current rate of about one a week.

After Operation Desert Storm evicted Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the Security Council exempted foodstuffs, medicine and other humanitarian supplies from the Iraqi sanctions.

A special committee that reviews the sanctions every two months has the right to allow

other goods through on the merit of each request.

Late last week, a Ukrainian vessel, Akademik Artsimovich, was also allowed to proceed northward to Umm Qasr even though it was carrying wheat and was allowed to proceed.

According to Cmdr. Cole, it was carrying 51 tractors and 61 harvesters. "It had an authorisation letter from the United Nations, so it was allowed through," he said.

"It's not the first time that a ship with such items has been allowed through with U.N. authorisation," he said.

He said he assumed the Ukrainian vessel was let through because it carried implements intended for agriculture, and therefore for food.

Ships are diverted mainly

because of incorrect manifests

or because goods are stacked

Saudi-Iranian row flares again over quota for pilgrims

DUBAI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has strongly attacked Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and said it is baffled by contradictory signals from different Iranian leaders.

An official statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) late on Tuesday described as irresponsible charges by Ayatollah Khamenei that Saudi Arabia wants to set a limit of 55,000 Iranians making the Haj this year.

He said this violated a 1991 accord giving Iran a quota of 115,000 under a deal in which Tehran and Riyadh restored ties and ended a three-year Iranian boycott of the pilgrimage.

"While Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani continues to send us messages and envoys in order to improve ties and bring our points of view closer, the religious authority Ali Khamenei surprises us with irresponsible statements followed by a frenzied media campaign," the statement said.

The new war of words between the two powers that dominate the oil-rich Gulf seemed inevitable after Ayatollah Khamenei made his charges in a sermon marking Eid Al Fitr.

He hinted that Saudi Arabia may be acting as a tool of the United States. Saudi Arabia's ally and Iran's declared enemy.

"Unfortunately, the issue of the Haj has not followed its proper course so far this year. The Saudi government is putting obstacles in the way, and I do not know why," Ayatollah Khamenei said in his sermon on Sunday.

He warned against the Haj, which falls due in May this year, becoming "another tool in the hands of America and big powers."

"We will not pay attention to mean statement by some or frenzied media campaigns aimed at inciting strife among Muslims," the Saudi statement said.

"We are much baffled by the contradictions of Iranian leaders when addressing us... which camp do we credit and with which of the two men do we deal?" the Saudi statement asked.

Since some 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, died in clashes in the 1987 Haj, Saudi Arabia has consistently denied that the pilgrimage system causes suffering unless Saudi Arabia allows at least 115,000 Iranians to perform the Haj each year.

The Saudi statement reasserted the principles of the quota system, which sets the number of pilgrims from each country as one in every thousand of Muslims.

Mr. Reysahri warned Tuesday that Tehran-Riyadh ties could suffer unless Saudi Arabia allowed at least 115,000 Iranians to perform the Haj each year.

He warned against the Haj, which falls due in May this year, becoming "another tool in the hands of America and big powers."

"The problems created by the Saudis will make Muslims think that the Haj ceremonies have been turned into a tool in the hand of the United States and big powers," the radio quoted Mr. Reysahri as saying.

Last year Mr. Reysahri returned from the Haj in a buff to protest alleged harassment by Saudi forces girded for possible Iranian demonstrators.

Cleanup keeps Bosphorus closed after tanker fire

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — The oil-spilled Bosphorus waterway remained closed for a third on Wednesday evening after a burning tanker was tugged to safety.

The death toll from Sunday's collision between the 132,517-dreadweight-tonne (DWT) Nissia tanker and the 25,400-DWT freighter Shipbrokers, both Cypriot-flagged, rose to 19, with 10 seafarers missing in choppy seas.

"The fire is under control, but we don't know how long it will take to put it out," Ismail Sefer Er, the head of Istanbul port authority, told Reuters as he monitored firefighting efforts from the Karakoy coastguard station on the Black Sea.

Istanbul's Deputy Governor Ruki Paker said two ships had begun a clean-up effort to scoop patches of crude from the narrow 30-kilometre strait and remove oil washed onto the shore.

"Although the tanker has been removed from the Bosphorus, the channel is still closed because of the danger that shipping traffic may disrupt the oil patches," Mr. Paker told Reuters.

State Minister Tez said at least 80 ships were stacked up near the Marmara Sea and Black Sea entrances to the Bosphorus waiting for it to reopen.

Connoisseurs gather at Fine Arts Fair

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands (AP) — Rubies, diamonds and rembrandts. If you are wealthy enough to buy them you should be here. More than 150 of the world's leading galleries, collectors and museum curators have set up shop, creating a posh bazaar of collectibles known as the European Fine Art Fair. Even before the fair opened to the public Saturday, 4,652 visitors paid 150 guilders (\$79) each for a Friday preview at which a rembrandt drawing and a painting by Jan Breughel the Younger were sold. "It's very encouraging for the art market because it rather suggests that there's more money in the economy in general," fair spokesman Sue Bond said. But she conceded that many fairgoers are rich to be immune to recession. The fair encompasses art ranging from Egyptian antiquities to modern and contemporary, medieval manuscripts, antique furniture and artifacts, and jewelry.